



Aroha Discovery School
NURTURING THE LOVE OF LEARNING

Ako Assistant

Aroha Discovery School is a small, intimate full primary school that we are currently developing in Nelson, New Zealand. We currently have 12 full time students ranging from ages 5 – 9 years old that are ready to start at our school during 2020. We expect to grow as we establish ourselves and become more widely known. We also intend to continue our expansion up to, and including teenagers within the next few years.

In your position as Ako Assistant you will be supporting the Ako Coordinator in their job of facilitating learning. We chose the name Ako Assistant for this role as it best describes the teaching/learning relationship, where the educator is also learning from the student in a collaborative environment.

It is important that our teachers work as a collaborative team. We focus on forming strong relationships with students and the Aroha Discovery community, and strongly value outdoor learning, following the children's lead, learning through play and making decisions together. Our focus is to identify children's strengths and interests, and offer opportunities to build on these, as well as providing opportunities for children to try new things and take risks. As children learn, play and develop, we are there to offer guidance and support as needed, that is targeted to the individual.

Key elements of your role include:

- **Health and safety:** to ensure children are in a safe space, by identifying hazards, boundaries, and supporting safe behaviours (while also enabling risky play).
- **Social skills:** to help children develop and follow their values, mediate conflicts, build confidence in groups, and make decisions together.
- **Emotional skills:** to help children learn about and experience their emotions - develop awareness and vocabulary, and effective ways to express themselves.
- **Physical health:** to offer opportunities to move in a variety of ways, and to develop gross and fine motor skills.
- **Intellectual skills:** to support children as they learn new skills and knowledge that is meaningful to them. Bring your own passions in, for example art and craft or music, movement workshops that you'd like to do with the children.
- **Relationships:** to build positive relationships with the children and their whanau, and share with colleagues your ideas, successes, challenges, when needing support etc. To foster links with the Nature Focus play-group, local iwi and other community groups/real world mentors.
- **Integration with the wider community:** helping the children organise field trips to places and people of interest. Part of our philosophy is that the city is part of our school and we have a focus on building those real-world connections.
- **Support:** to help the children and teachers with cleaning up, and supervision.

- **Professionalism:** ensure that you understand and can follow the Aroha Discovery approach and philosophy (<https://arohadiscovery.school.nz/about>), and ask questions if there's something you'd like clarity on. In this way, we can act out our values and be the best models for our children.

We are looking for someone who is keen to work in an environment with a completely different understanding, attitude and approach to education, who has initiated their own inquiry into education, parenting, or well-being. We would love someone who understands that we are all learning and growing alongside our Tamariki.

Learning spaces/schools, we have been inspired by:

- Summerhill School <http://www.summerhillschool.co.uk/>
- Tamariki School <http://www.tamariki.school.nz/>
- Sudbury Valley School - <https://sudburyvalley.org/article/kingdom-childhood-growing-sudbury-valley-school>
- Albany Free School: <http://www.albanyfreeschool.org/>
- Play Centres <http://www.playcentre.org.nz/>
- Longworth Forest School, Napier <https://longworthforest.wordpress.com/>

Here is a list of videos, books and articles that have inspired us:

<https://arohadiscovery.school.nz/resources>

If this sounds like you we would love to hear from you! Please send your CV along with a cover letter to: admin@arohadiscovery.school.nz

Applications close Tuesday 31st December 2019