

# Pathway to School

Playcentre is an excellent choice for tamariki from birth to school

## Birth to 6 months

For the first six months or so, your baby will stay close to you. From you as secure base they will start to build relationships with other tamariki and adults at Playcentre. You will spend most of time caring for your own baby and there will always a helpful adult around to cuddle with your baby if you want to go and play with an older child or need to do something else. At this stage 1 or 2 mornings at Playcentre might be enough.

## 6 to 18 months

Once your baby become more mobile, their and your Playcentre experience will change somewhat. Having had months of observing other children, your little one might now be ready to start exploring Playcentre a little more. You will act as a secure base for them from where they can move away at their own pace to explore the Playcentre world and be a safe haven to return to if they get overwhelmed. 1 or 2 mornings at Playcentre might still be enough for your little explorer.

## 18 months to 2.5 years

Now that they are fully mobile, they will continue to use you as their safe base to explore from. Their explorations will take them further and further away and they will start to connect more with other tamariki on session. You will now have a little more time to connect with other tamariki and their parents and opportunities to support your child's interactions and explorations. As they become more adventurous 2 to 3 days might be just right for them.

## 2.5 years to school

Your child will gradually grow more confident at Playcentre. You will notice that your child takes more ownership of the centre. Playcentre is their place, and the more regularly they attend Playcentre, the more confident they will be in their relationships with others. Growing independence is part of getting ready to start school when the time comes. You will now have a lot more freedom to either stay on session to help or to leave and go do your own thing. At this stage they will be ready to attend 3-5 sessions per week.