



(Ah-kor)- Everyone is a learner and everyone is a teacher.



Are you looking for something truly different, where you have real autonomy?

Join our innovative primary school on the North Shore of Auckland. We are looking for a dynamic full time **Assistant Teacher / Kaiako or Teacher Aide** to join our awesome team.

Our vision is to create communities of creative, joyful, compassionate lifelong-learners who use courageous and innovative thinking to build a harmonious and sustainable world.

Ako Space is a small, independent primary school based in Northcote, Auckland. We currently have 12 full time students, ranging from 5-11 yrs old. We expect to grow to 16-20 students over the next year and may grow to a maximum of 80 students over the coming years. We currently employ a Lead Teacher/Principal and an assistant teacher, who are supported by two part-time relief/release teachers. There are at least two staff working each day, and sometimes a parent helper as well - keeping our adult to child ratio between 1:6 and 1:8.

We are looking for someone who is **passionate about learning through play** and wants to be part of an innovative school organisation. This role might interest someone who has initiated their own inquiry into education, parenting, or well being. Our ideal employee understands the value of ako, that we are all learning and growing alongside our tamariki. You do not have to be a registered teacher (although this is preferable). You could be working towards registration (either ECE, Primary or Secondary), have Limited Authority to Teach (LAT), be a Teacher Aide or have some other relevant education qualification or experience (e.g. outdoor education, forest schooling, youth group, counselling, psychology). The main thing is that you resonate with our values and approach and have a genuine interest in exploring the world with children.



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Our teachers work as a **collaborative team**. We focus on forming **strong relationships** with students and the Ako Space community, and **strongly value outdoor learning, following the children's lead, learning through play and making decisions together**. We identify children's strengths and interests, and offer opportunities to build on these, as well as providing spaces 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. Our literacy program follows a multisensory structured and systematic approach, but we work with each child to meet them where they are at and tailor instruction to their needs.

Our existing assistant teacher, who is ECE trained, has decided to move back to early childhood education. We are therefore seeking to fill her role as soon as possible. This is a **permanent full time position** (Monday to Friday, 8.45am-3.15pm in the classroom or bush setting, and additional hours for preparation, meetings, and documentation, for a total of 37.5 hours per week). We could consider candidates interested in a part-time option (minimum 3 days a week). Pay will be between \$40,000 and \$42,000 + 3% KiwiSaver employer contribution per annum depending on experience. There are 12 weeks paid holiday per year, as we closely follow state school term dates. Note that we do not use State School/Union employment contracts/terms.

#### **Key elements of your role include:**

- **Relationships:** to build positive relationships with the children and their whanau, and share with colleagues your ideas, successes, challenges, when needing support etc.
- **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.
- **Intellectual skills:** to guide and mentor children as they learn new skills and knowledge that is meaningful to them.
- **Physical health:** to offer opportunities to explore movement in a variety of ways, and to develop gross and fine motor skills.
- **Health and safety:** to ensure children are in a safe space, by identifying hazards, boundaries, and supporting safe behaviours (while also enabling risky play).
- **Support:** to help with the daily operation of the school by helping to set up in the morning, and close down at the end of the day.
- **Professionalism:** ensure that you understand and can follow the Ako Space approach and philosophy, 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.

#### **What we offer:**

- **Autonomy:** as a small community run school we highly value the ideas, energy and wisdom of everyone who is part of our community of learners. You will be working in a collaborative environment and will be given as much freedom and autonomy as you feel comfortable with.



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- **Support:** we see everyone as both a teacher and a learner. You will be working in a team teaching environment and will receive a lot of support from our Lead Teacher.
- **Professional development:** you will have the opportunity to attend professional development offerings relevant to your role and we will support you to develop a reflective teaching practice.
- **Flexibility:** as a valued member of our team we will work with you to accommodate any needs you may have around hours. We also keep contact time over school holidays to a bare minimum (1 day).
- **Sense of belonging:** our community of parents are highly committed to our school and their children's education. We seek to create a strong sense of community and belonging for all members of our learning community.
- **Exposure to diverse perspectives and experiences:** our programme is pretty unique in New Zealand. Our community of parents and educators do a lot of reading across educational topics and we also organise talks and seminars by various local and international speakers. You will be exposed to a wide range of perspectives, research, and thinking on educational practices and reform. You will also be directly exposed to self-directed and play-based models of learning and be able to apply your learnings to your next role. Play-based learning is being implemented in many more schools across New Zealand. We are also currently upskilling in literacy instruction practices based on the Science of Reading.
- **Time in nature:** you will get to spend two whole school days in nature (and be paid for it!) - such a tonic for the soul.

**Learning spaces/schools that we have been inspired by:**

- Summerhill School <http://www.summerhillschool.co.uk/>
- Tamariki School <http://www.tamariki.school.nz/>
- Play Mountain Place <http://www.playmountain.org/>
- Sudbury Valley School - <https://sudburyvalley.org/article/kingdom-childhood-growing-sudbury-valley-school>
- Agile Learning Centres - <https://agilelearningcenters.org/>
- Brightworks <http://www.sfbrightworks.org/>
- NZ Playcentres <http://www.playcentre.org.nz/>
- [Te Whariki](#)
- Longworth Forest School, Napier <https://longworthforest.wordpress.com/>

Here is a list of Articles / books that have shaken things up in us:

<https://www.akospace.com/resources/>

If you are interested in this role, please contact Bronwyn Bayne at [bronwyn@akospace.com](mailto:bronwyn@akospace.com) or 020 4105 1121 to find out more or have a confidential chat. Please also have a look at our [Prospectus](#) for more information on our school.

Please send a copy of your CV with a cover letter by midnight Monday **13 July 2020**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview 15-17 July and two referees will be contacted for our preferred candidate/s. A three day



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(paid) trial is also contemplated before a formal offer is made to make sure we are a good fit for each other. Our ideal start date would be **17 August** (Start of week 5 of Term 3).



WHAT WE VALUE

### TAKARO - PLAY

We value play as the best way to learn.

### AUAHATANGA - CREATIVITY

We value imagination and the ability to express ourselves creatively.

### WHARE TAPA WHA - HOLISTIC

We acknowledge that we learn with our hands, head and heart.

### MANAWAREKA - CURIOSITY

We believe that curiosity is the key to finding your passion.

### WHAKAUTE - RESPECT

We respect ourselves, each other and the environment.

### WHANAUNGATANGA - COMMUNITY

We believe that everyone is a learner and everyone is a teacher.