



The Child Rich Communities Principles

Engagement – work inclusively and without judgement. See local people as the greatest asset, not a ‘problem to be fixed’. Proactively reach out and involve families, whānau and the wider community in discussions and decision making.

Empowerment – go beyond ‘social service delivery’, proactively work alongside local people in ways that encourage them to participate, lead, make decisions and take action themselves. Encourage people to recognise their own power and help ignite their dreams and aspirations.

Connection – build on the positives first and be welcoming. Use soft doors (e.g. coffee groups, local events) to strengthen social connectedness and build trust. Look to link people and ideas with others who can help, explore shared visions and next steps. Seek to build community in all you do.

Collaboration – work together with multiple stakeholders to maximise energy, impact and resources. Make sure local whānau and community leaders are authentically involved and supported to participate.

Relationship focused – value and nurture strong, respectful, reciprocal and long-term relationships with families, whānau and the wider community.

Responsive – be willing to change and adapt how things are done to enable the aspirations of local families, whānau and the wider community.

Think and work holistically – if families and whānau are well, children are well. If our whānau, families and children are well, our communities will be too.