

Core Practices

There is no single model or definition for what a Child Rich Community is. Rather it's a way of working that is driven by a set of practices that enable people in local places to make positive change for themselves, their children, their families and the wider community.

From learning alongside locally-led initiatives across Aotearoa, the following key practices have been identified:



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.