



The Champion Centre
Tamariki Toiora

The Champion Centre

A world-leading early intervention
service

Dr. Susan Foster-Cohen, Director

The Champion Centre

- The Champion Centre is a not for profit organisation, that provides centre- based early intervention services to children with significant developmental delays and disabilities between the ages of 0 and 6 years. Up to 200 children at any one time.
- Founded by Dr. Patricia Champion and a group of like-minded clinicians 40 years ago, it derived from the belief that every child, regardless of physical, mental, or social capacity, has the right to be educated, to learn and grow, and to reach their individual potential.



We are based on first principles of child development

- All infants and children develop best in relationships within families and whānau who understand them and their needs and who love them unconditionally.
- Children learn most effectively through joyful play that engages all their systems: physical, emotional, intellectual, communicative.



The Champion Centre
Tamariki Toiora

We are based on first principles of child development

- Children with delays and disabilities are no different from other children in what they need to reach their potential. But they face challenges and barriers that we need to understand and then work with their families to overcome.



We treat infants and children as **whole** people ...

- Understanding how development in one area is affected by development in another (e.g., physical development affects communication, which in turn affects emotional development and making friends),
- Finding the right 'way in' to each child (through music, through play, through physical movement, etc.),



We treat infants and children as **whole** people...

- Providing a range of therapies (physical, emotional, social, communicative, intellectual) delivered by a coordinated team that consists of staff members who each bring their expertise to commonly agreed upon goals for each child each week,
- Extending what is learned at the Centre into their lives at home, in their community early childhood centre, at the park, church, etc. and actively preparing them for the transition to school.



Our programmes include..



Physiotherapy



Occupational Therapy





Speech and Language Therapy



Early intervention Teaching



Group Music



Individual Music Sessions



Computer Supported Learning



Play-centred learning at the Centre and in the community





To support each child's development we:

- Hire and train the very best staff;
- Pay close attention to the needs and aspirations of each family for their child;
- Work in respectful partnership with families and whānau to help them understand their children;
- Support family and whānau to foster and encourage their child's development;



To work in **partnership** with families and whānau we..

- Join families in the ways that they want and need in their lives and communities, at the Centre and at home
- Support parents to be the best parents they can be despite challenges including grief, economic stress, or mental health issues.
- Advocate with other agencies and individuals on behalf of children and their families/whānau (teachers, medical professionals, service agencies, etc.)



Our service is successful because..

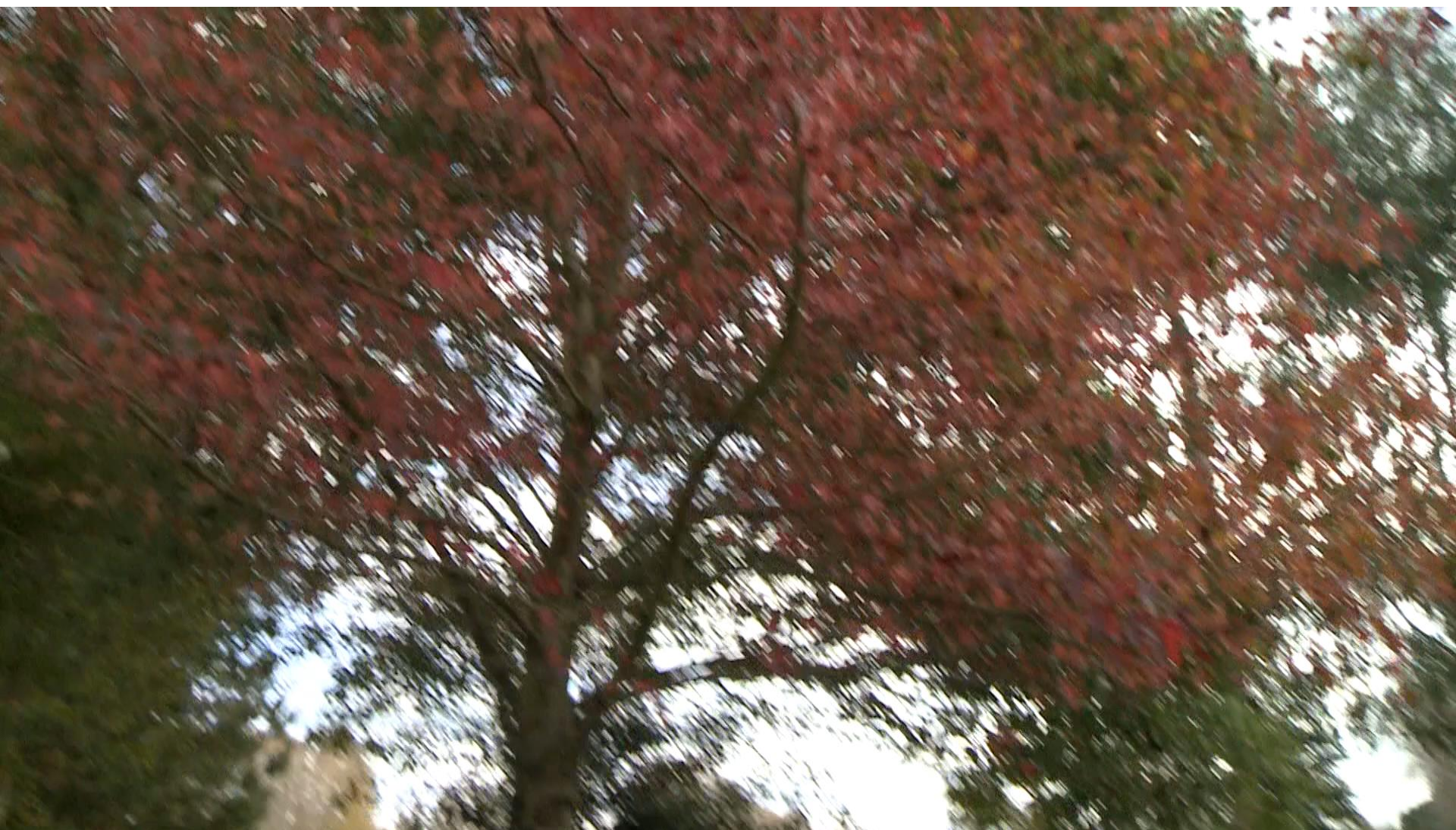


- Families meet one-on-one with therapists regularly and frequently across the time they attend our service,
- We pay close and careful attention to the fine details of each child's developmental profile that crucially impact outcomes,
- We include resources to support learning being fully integrated into children's thinking, feeling and doing (e.g., music, computer),
- Families expand their support networks through meeting each other in a safe, understanding space,
- Parents are supported as parents and people by all team members,
- Our coordinated, highly professional teams connect and communicate with families and each other,
- We limit the number of children we work with at any one time to the capacity of the teams and the facility.

But it costs...

- More than \$2 million per year
- Government supplies about \$1.3 million
- Big shortfall per child per year: \$7,000
- We depend on support from individuals and organisations who are passionate about social responsibility and who want to make a difference in our society.







Can your organisation help support even one of these children for a year?

