



ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name: Little Minds Early Learning Centre

Profile Number: 47796

Location: Whalers Gate, New Plymouth

ERO's Akanuku | Assurance Review reports provide information about whether a service meets and maintains regulatory standards. Further information about Akanuku | Assurance Reviews is included at the end of this report.

ERO's Judgement

Regulatory standards	ERO's judgement
Curriculum	Meeting
Premises and facilities	Meeting
Health and safety	Meeting
Governance, management and administration	Meeting

At the time of the review, ERO found the service was taking reasonable steps to meet regulatory standards.

Background

Little Minds Early Learning Centre is one of two services under the same organisation. A qualified centre manager leads a team of 21 staff, including nine qualified teachers and a cook. A small number of children attending are of Māori heritage, and other children are from diverse cultural backgrounds. This is the first review for this service under new ownership.

Summary of Review Findings

Adults providing education and care engage in meaningful, positive interactions to enhance children's learning and nurture reciprocal relationships. The curriculum is inclusive, and responsive to children as confident and competent learners. Children's preferences are respected, and they are involved in decisions about their learning. There are separate spaces for each age group, and children who are under two have teachers who are responsive to their care needs.

A range of experiences and opportunities are provided to children that enhance and extend their learning and development. The service curriculum is informed by assessment, planning and evaluation that demonstrate an understanding of children's learning, their interests, whānau and life contexts.

Key Next Steps

Next steps include:

- strengthening the extent to which information documented about children's learning reflects their identity, languages and cultures.

Next ERO Review

The next ERO review is likely to be an Akarangi | Quality Evaluation.



Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

31 July 2023

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	83 children, including up to 25 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80-99%
Service roll	86
Review team on site	July 2023
Date of this report	31 July 2023
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Previously reviewed as Puddleducks' Nursery & Preschool – New Plymouth: Akanuku Assurance Review, January 2022

General Information about Assurance Reviews

All services are licensed under the *Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008*. The legal requirements for early childhood services also include the *Licensing Criteria for Education and Care Services 2008*.

Services must meet the standards in the regulations and the requirements of the licensing criteria to gain and maintain a licence to operate.

ERO undertakes an Akanuku | Assurance Review process in any centre-based service:

- having its first ERO review – including if it is part of a governing organisation
- previously identified as ‘not well placed’ or ‘requiring further development’
- that has moved from a provisional to a full licence
- that have been re-licensed due to a change of ownership
- where an Akanuku | Assurance Review process is determined to be appropriate.

Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

All early childhood services are required to promote children’s health and safety and to regularly review their compliance with legal requirements. Before the review, the staff and management of a service completed an ERO Centre Assurance Statement and Self-Audit Checklist. In these documents they attested that they have taken all reasonable steps to meet their legal obligations related to:

- curriculum
- premises and facilities
- health and safety practices
- governance, management and administration.

As part of an Akanuku | Assurance Review ERO assesses whether the regulatory standards are being met. In particular, ERO looks at a service’s systems for managing the following areas that have a potentially high impact on children's wellbeing:

- emotional safety (including positive guidance and child protection)
- physical safety (including supervision; sleep procedures; accidents; medication; hygiene; excursion policies and procedures)
- suitable staffing (including qualification levels; safety checking; teacher certification; ratios)
- relevant evacuation procedures and practices.

As part of an Akanuku | Assurance Review ERO also gathers and records evidence through:

- discussions with those involved in the service
- consideration of relevant documentation, including the implementation of health and safety systems
- observations of the environment/premises, curriculum implementation and teaching practice.