



ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name	Learning Links Te Awamutu
Profile Number	47589
Location	Te Awamutu

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

This is the first ERO review of Learning Links Te Awamutu, a privately-owned service which is part of a wider group. Leaders and teachers are supported by a pedagogical leader, operations manager, and the service owners. The service opened in November 2018 and received a full licence in November 2019.

Summary of Review Findings

The service curriculum is informed by assessment, planning and evaluation that demonstrates an understanding of children's learning, their interests, whānau, and life contexts. Children are provided with a range of opportunities to enhance and extend their learning and development – both indoors and outdoors, individually and in groups.

Parents and whānau are consulted about service operation. Procedures are in place to effectively manage health and safety systems, and the premises and facilities are resourced to provide for the learning and abilities of the children attending.

Key Next Steps

Next steps include:

- continue to develop the local curriculum to reflect learning that is important to children and their families, kaiako and the wider community
- increase the opportunities children have to hear and speak te reo Māori in meaningful learning contexts.

Next ERO Review

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



Phil Cowie
Director Review and Improvement Services (Central)
Central Region | Te Tai Pūtahi Nui

19 March 2021

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	70 children, including up to 12 aged under 2.
Percentage of qualified teachers	80%+
Service roll	77
Ethnic composition	Māori 17, NZ European/Pākehā 42, Other ethnic groups 18.
Review team on site	January 2021
Date of this report	19 March 2021
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	First ERO review of the service

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 regulated 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; police vetting; teacher certification; ratios)
- evacuation procedures and practices for fire and earthquake.

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.