



ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name	Learning Links Taupo
Profile Number	47657
Location	Taupō

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	Not meeting
Premises and facilities	Meeting
Health and safety	Not meeting
Governance, management and administration	Meeting

At the time of the review, ERO identified areas of non-compliance with regulatory standards that are an unacceptable risk to children.

Background

Learning Links Taupō provides an all-day education and care service for children. One director is the service provider. The centre manager oversees two leaders and a team of qualified and unqualified staff.

This the first ERO review for this service.

Summary of Review Findings

Teachers respond to the learning, interests, strengths and capabilities of children. Teacher practice that supports each child to be confident in their own culture and encourages them to understand and respect other cultures, needs strengthening. The design and layout of the premises support the provision of different types of indoor and outdoor experiences.

Consistent implementation of health and safety practices is required to meet all aspects of regulatory compliance.

Actions for Compliance

ERO found areas of non-compliance in the service relating to:

- evidence of the curriculum respecting and supporting the right of each child to be confident in their own culture and encourage children to understand and respect other cultures
- carrying out relevant emergency drills with children on an at least three-monthly basis
- implementation of the sleep procedure to ensure children do not have access to food or liquids while in bed
- the analysis of accident/incident records to identify hazards so that appropriate action is taken.

[Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Services 2008 C6, HS8, HS9, HS12]

Recommendation to Ministry of Education

ERO recommends that the Ministry reassess the licence issued to this service provider. ERO will not undertake a further review of this service until the Ministry of Education is satisfied that the service meets regulatory standards.

Next ERO Review

The next ERO review will be in consultation with the Ministry of Education.



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

15 June 2021

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	80 children, including up to 20 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80%+
Service roll	80
Ethnic composition	Māori 31, NZ European/Pākehā 27, European 13, Other ethnic groups 9
Review team on site	13 April 2021
Date of this report	15 June 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.