

ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name: Learning Links Taupo

Profile Number: 47657

Location: Taupo

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 privately owned service is part of Learning Links Childcare group. The centre manager oversees a team of qualified and unqualified staff. Approximately a fifth of children enrolled identify as Māori and there are a small number of Pacific heritage. The service returned to a full licence in September 2022.

Summary of Review Findings

The service curriculum is informed by assessment, planning and evaluation that demonstrates an understanding of children's learning, interests, whānau and life contexts. The curriculum acknowledges and reflects the unique place of Māori as tangata whenua. Children are supported to be confident in their own culture and are encouraged to respect other cultures.

Teachers engage in meaningful and positive interactions to enhance children's learning and nurture reciprocal relationships. Children's preferences are respected, and they are involved in decisions about their learning experiences.

Positive steps are in place to respect and acknowledge the aspirations held by parents and whānau for their children.

Key Next Steps

Next steps include:

- increasing the involvement of whānau Māori in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the service's local curriculum
- identifying and implementing teaching strategies to extend, support and sustain the complexity of learning for older children.

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 April 2023

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	80 children, including up to 25 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80-99%
Service roll	71
Review team on site	February 2023
Date of this report	19 April 2023
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Akanuku Assurance Review, June 2021;

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.