



**Education Review Office**  
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

**Just Kids Community Preschool  
Christchurch**

**Confirmed**

**Education Review Report**

# Just Kids Community Preschool

## Christchurch

6 May 2019

### 1 Evaluation of Just Kids Community Preschool

How well placed is Just Kids Community Preschool to promote positive learning outcomes for children?

Not well placed	Requires further development	Well placed	<b>Very well placed</b>
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Just Kids Community Preschool is very well placed to promote positive outcomes for children.

ERO's findings that support this overall judgement are summarised below.

#### Background

Just Kids Community Preschool is one of three early childhood education and care services managed by the Families for Life Trust. The centre is licensed to provide full day education and care for up to 147 children, including up to 25 under the age of two. The centre states that it is committed to providing low cost, quality accessible care for children and their families within the local community, including a free transport service.

Centre programmes and practices are guided by a shared vision and philosophy which emphasise respectful relationships, open communication and learning as a lifelong journey. The preschool's core values support children's learning through the belief that 'to work is to play, to play is to learn and to learn is to live'.

The centre manager and senior head teacher provide educational leadership of the centre. A head teacher leads the teaching and learning in each separate area. Most of the teaching staff are qualified and registered early childhood teachers. They reflect the cultural diversity of the centre's children and families.

Leaders have used external expertise to address all areas for improvement identified in ERO's 2015 report.

The centre participates in the Ōtākaro Kāhui Ako Community of Learning (CoL). It is also part of the leadership team of the Aranui Community of Practice, a network of early childhood and school leaders in the Aranui/Wainoni area.

This review was part of a cluster of three reviews in the Families for Life Trust, which is part of a community complex that supports families.

## **The Review Findings**

Children are meaningfully engaged in the centre's programme and play and learn for sustained periods of time. Tuakana-teina relationships are evident in the way older children play and learn with younger ones.

Children are well supported by their teachers to be confident and competent learners. Teachers listen to children's ideas and provide resources and equipment which encourage them to investigate, explore and extend their interests. Children's literacy is well supported and they have opportunities to explore the local community, such as the local library and gymnasium.

Children who are under two enjoy warm, nurturing relationships with their teachers. They make independent choices and can access an extensive range of resources. Teachers respond well to their non-verbal cues, needs and interests. Children's sense of wellbeing and belonging are supported through teachers' regular communication and consultation with parents/whānau about their children's wellbeing and learning progress. Positive transition processes are in place.

Children with additional learning needs are well supported by their teachers. Leaders and teachers consult with outside agencies and the centre's education support workers to ensure that these children can participate fully in the learning programme.

Leaders and teachers seek information and guidance from wider whānau who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. This helps teachers show children their culture is actively valued. Programme planning includes aspects of Māori culture and effectively contributes to building children's awareness of Aotearoa New Zealand's bicultural heritage. Teachers have a strong commitment to building their knowledge and understanding of tikanga and te reo Māori.

Leaders and teachers have used internal and external professional development to improve assessment, planning and evaluation. Te Whariki (2017), the NZ Early Childhood Curriculum, is well documented in assessment, planning and learning outcomes.

Leaders and teachers have used external expertise to improve internal evaluation processes, and are building a culture of reflection for continuous improvement. Strategic planning and goals are linked to teacher practice, appraisal and professional development. Strong leadership and a collaborative approach are supporting staff to continue to develop their professional capability and leadership capacity.

## **Key Next Steps**

ERO recognises that the centre has made many improvements since the last review.

Centre leaders have identified and ERO's evaluation confirms that the next steps are to:

- further strengthen appraisal processes to ensure that appraisal meets the expectations of the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand
- continue to build teachers' knowledge, pedagogy and inquiry around intentional teaching, practices and programmes for positive outcomes for all children.

## Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Just Kids Community Preschool 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.

During the review, ERO looked at the 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 registration; ratios)
- evacuation procedures and practices for fire and earthquake.

All early childhood services are required to promote children's health and safety and to regularly review their compliance with legal requirements.



Alan Wynyard  
Director Review and Improvement Services  
Southern Region

6 May 2019

## The Purpose of ERO Reports

The Education Review Office (ERO) is the government department that, as part of its work, reviews early childhood services throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. ERO's reports provide information for parents and communities about each service's strengths and next steps for development. ERO's bicultural evaluation framework Ngā Pou Here is described in [SECTION 3](#) of this report. Early childhood services are partners in the review process and are expected to make use of the review findings to enhance children's wellbeing and learning.

## 2 Information about the Early Childhood Service

Location	Christchurch		
Ministry of Education profile number	65155		
Licence type	Education & Care Service		
Licensed under	Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008		
Number licensed for	147 children, including up to 25 aged under 2		
Service roll	122		
Gender composition	Boys 61, Girls 55		
Ethnic composition	Māori	62	
	NZ European/Pākehā	44	
	Pacific	13	
	Other Ethnicities	3	
Percentage of qualified teachers 0-49%    50-79%    80%+ <i>Based on funding rates</i>	80% +		
Reported ratios of staff to children	Under 2	1:4	Better than minimum requirements
	Over 2	1:7	Better than minimum requirements
Review team on site	February 2019		
Date of this report	6 May 2019		
Most recent ERO reports These are available at <a href="http://www.ero.govt.nz">www.ero.govt.nz</a>	Education Review	July 2015	
	Supplementary Review	July 2013	
	Education Review	February 2008	

### 3 General Information about Early Childhood Reviews

#### ERO's Evaluation Framework

ERO's overarching question for an early childhood education review is 'How well placed is this service to promote positive learning outcomes for children?' ERO focuses on the following factors as described in the bicultural framework [Ngā Pou Here](#):

*Pou Whakahaere* – how the service determines its vision, philosophy and direction to ensure positive outcomes for children

*Pou Ārahi* – how leadership is enacted to enhance positive outcomes for children

*Mātauranga* – whose knowledge is valued and how the curriculum is designed to achieve positive outcomes for children

*Tikanga whakaako* – how approaches to teaching and learning respond to diversity and support positive outcomes for children.

Within these areas ERO considers the effectiveness of *arotake* – self review and of *whanaungatanga* – partnerships with parents and whānau.

ERO evaluates how well placed a service is to sustain good practice and make ongoing improvements for the benefit of all children at the service.

A focus for the government is that all children, especially priority learners, have an opportunity to benefit from quality early childhood education. ERO will report on how well each service promotes positive outcomes for all children, with a focus on children who are Māori, Pacific, have diverse needs, and are up to the age of two.

For more information about the framework and Ngā Pou Here refer to [ERO's Approach to Review in Early Childhood Services](#).

#### ERO's Overall Judgement

The overall judgement that ERO makes will depend on how well the service promotes positive learning outcomes for children. The categories are:

- Very well placed
- Well placed
- Requires further development
- Not well placed

ERO has developed criteria for each category. These are available on [ERO's website](#).

#### Review Coverage

ERO reviews are tailored to each service's context and performance, within the overarching review framework. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to positive outcomes for children and useful to the service.