



ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name: The Tree House

Profile Number: 25035

Location: Papatoetoe, Auckland

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

Since the onsite visit, the service has provided ERO with evidence that shows it has addressed non-compliances and is now taking reasonable steps to meet regulatory standards.

Background

The Tree House is located on the grounds of Middlemore Hospital. The service is governed by an Incorporated Society. The Governance Committee consists of parent volunteers who provide strategic oversight and guidance. The qualified centre director is supported by the curriculum leader, a room coordinator and five qualified teachers, as well as unqualified staff, support staff and relievers. Most of the children attending are from the hospital staff. Many of the children are of Māori or Pacific Island heritages.

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. Children have opportunities to be confident in their own culture and are encouraged to understand and respect each other. A language-rich environment is provided that promotes children's learning.

The design and layout of the premises supports the provision of different indoor and outdoor experiences. A philosophy statement guides the service's operation.

Service leaders must continue to implement and monitor systems and practices to maintain regulatory standards.

Key Next Steps

- Strengthen the extent to which assessment and planning responds to children interests and shows progress in relation to the learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki*, early childhood curriculum.
- Continue to build teachers' bicultural practices.

Actions for Compliance

During and since the onsite review, the service provided ERO with evidence to show the following non-compliances have been addressed:

- Ensuring items intended for children to sleep on, such as stretchers beds, are securely covered with a non-porous material (PF30).
- Ensuring heavy furniture and equipment that could fall or topple and cause serious injury or damage is secured (HS6).
- Ensuring adults providing education and care are familiar with relevant emergency drills and carry these out with children on at least a three-monthly basis (HS8).
- Ensuring that whenever children leave the premises on an excursion, the signature of the person responsible has given approval for the excursion to take place, and the names of the adults involved are documented (HS 17).
- Having evidence that initial risk assessment and periodic re-checking of all staff has been undertaken as part of the service's safety checking processes (GMA7A).
- Ensuring the service provider contact person is suitably safety checked in accordance with the Childrens Act, including being police vetted (GMA7A).
- Having an annual plan identifying 'who' in relation to key tasks the service intends to undertake and how key tasks will have regard to the Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP), (GMA 8).

Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008.

Next ERO Review

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

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Patricia Davey".

Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

6 May 2024

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	90 children, including up to 30 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80-99%
Service roll	118
Review team on site	Feb 2024
Date of this report	6 May 2024
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Education Review, March 2020; Education Review, January 2016

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.