



ERO Early Childhood Service Akanuku | Assurance Review

Early Childhood Service Name: St Mary's Early Childhood Education Centre

Profile Number: 60356

Location: Wellington

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	Not meeting
Governance, management and administration	Not meeting

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

Background

The service is managed by a head teacher who works collaboratively with a committee of Karori Anglican Church representatives and parents. The service recently moved from a provisional to full licence. The community is culturally diverse, with a small number of Māori children attending.

Summary of Review Findings

Children are provided with a range of experiences and opportunities both indoors and outdoors, individually and in groups. *Te Whāriki* the early childhood curriculum, underpins the curriculum. Steps are taken to acknowledge the aspirations held by parents and whānau for their children. Teachers seek

information and guidance, when necessary, from agencies to enable them to work effectively with children and their parents.

Some practices relating to health and safety and aspects of governance are not robust. A stronger focus on monitoring and implementing suitable systems and practices is required by leaders and those responsible for governance to meet regulatory requirements and support best practice.

Actions for Compliance

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

- ensuring that adults providing education and care are familiar with relevant emergency drills and are carrying these out with children on at least a three-monthly basis
- ensuring records for excursions include assessment and management of risk and signature of the person responsible
- ensuring a record of any medication given to children includes the time given and parental acknowledgement
- ensuring the service notifies a specified agency where there is a serious injury or incident involving a child while at the service
- ensuring every children's worker is safety checked every three years, and a record of checks and the results are kept.

Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Services, 2008, HS8, HS17, HS28, HS34, GMA7A.

During the review, the service provided ERO with evidence that shows it has addressed the following non-compliances:

- Displaying a current building warrant of fitness certificate (PF3).
- Ensuring heavy furniture, fixtures, and equipment that could fall or topple and cause serious injury or damage are secured (HS6).
- Ensuring daily hazard check lists include the required hazards (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.

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

Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

25 October 2023

Information About the Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	30 children, including up to 10 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	100%
Service roll	33
Review team on site	September 2023
Date of this report	25 October 2023
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Education Review, March 2019; Education Review, February 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.