



Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): Upcoming Report on *Responding to Diverse Cultures: Good Practice in Home-Based Early Childhood Services*

Date	10 December 2021
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M21-120
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
Associate Minister of Education	<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <p>a) Note the attached near final draft report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Responding to diverse cultures: Good practice in home-based early childhood services.</i> <p>b) Note the attached near final summary document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Responding to diverse cultures: Good practice in home-based early childhood services: Summary.</i> <p>c) Note that ERO intends to release these, along with a webinar, in early 2022.</p>	



Attachments:

Education Review Office (ERO): Upcoming Report on Responding to Diverse Cultures: Good Practice in Home-Based Early Childhood Services

Minister's Office to complete	
Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referred to:	
Date signed by Minister:	



Comments:



Our Ref: M21-120

10 December 2021

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

Upcoming Report on *Responding to Diverse Cultures: Good Practice in Home-Based Early Childhood Services*

Purpose

1. ERO has drafted a short 'good practice' report; a collection of narratives and practical strategies for responding to diverse cultures and languages in home-based early childhood settings. This briefing sets out the intent and content of this report.

Background

2. A key part of ERO's work, alongside our evaluation work, is promoting good teaching practice. Our 'good practice' reports like *Shining a Light on Science: Good Practice in Early Childhood Services*, released earlier this year, are well received by the ECE sector.
3. The varied landscape of ECE services and organisations means that good practice examples can be particularly impactful, supporting shared understandings of current good practices and key curriculum documents.
4. Census data shows that there is increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in New Zealand.
5. Culturally responsive practice is a key component of good quality ECE teaching. This is well established in education research and so it is reflected in ERO's indicators of quality. It is also foundational to the ECE curriculum *Te Whāriki*.
6. ERO reporting shows that culturally responsive practices, where teaching and learning builds on cultural and linguistic information, is an area of weakness in the ECE sector.
7. There are approximately 15000 children enrolled in home-based care and education, which is 8% of the NZ's ECE enrolments. This number may increase in relation to Covid-19.
8. The home-based sector has been going through some changes, in response to the 2018 review. Many educators are currently upgrading their qualifications to meet requirements.

The Report

9. ERO identified that the home-based sector is likely to benefit from a clear, practical resource that highlights what good culturally responsive practice can look like. It was also identified that while there are many useful resources available to support practice for Māori and Pacific learners, there is little guidance available around responding to other diverse cultures and languages, for example immigrant and refugee communities.
10. We looked across home-based services that have had ERO reviews in recent years and identified three services that demonstrated some good culturally responsive practices in their ERO reviews. We conducted semi-structured video interviews with educators, visiting teachers and leaders from these services, to gather narratives and strategies that show good culturally responsive practice in action.
11. The report sets out the following key themes of good culturally responsive practice:
 - a. Ongoing conversations about culture and language, including finding out about family contexts and culturally valued knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours.
 - b. Using a range of communication tools to share how these conversations were remembered, valued and impacted on teaching and learning.
 - c. Taking personal responsibility for supporting children to retain (or learn) their heritage languages.
 - d. Embedding multiple languages, and conversations about languages, in everyday interactions.
 - e. Focusing assessment and planning on learning that has cultural importance for children and families.
 - f. Engaging in professional learning and development to support their understandings.
 - g. Challenging themselves, and others, to put new professional learning into practice.
12. While the report is focused on promoting the value of practices that respond to diverse cultures, it also includes clear statements stating that:
 - a. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is of primary importance. Links to resources specific to responding to tamariki me whānau Māori are included.
 - b. Children's home or heritage languages should be promoted alongside supporting their development of English and te reo me ngā tikanga Māori.
 - c. Responding to Pacific families' cultures is important and can be supported through more specific resources already available – links are given.
 - d. While culturally responsive approaches are key, the curriculum offered should be consistent with the principles, strands, goals and learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki*.
 - e. Educators may need to be supported in their practice in this area, and should approach their visiting teacher, leadership, or governing organisation with questions or concerns.

Next Steps

13. This report is now being externally peer reviewed and will be ready for publication in February 2022. ERO will not be issuing a media release but instead, to help this report reach the sector and have impact, ERO will be:
 - a. Releasing the report and a summary document on our website.
 - b. Engaging with ECE stakeholder groups and home-based governing organisations to share our findings.
 - c. Holding a publicly accessible webinar to discuss the key themes in the report.

Recommendations

14. It is recommended that you:
 - a) **Note** the attached near final draft report: **Noted**
 - *Responding to diverse cultures: Good practice in home-based early childhood services.*
 - b) **Note** the attached near final summary document: **Noted**
 - *Responding to diverse cultures: Good practice in home-based early childhood services: Summary.*
 - c) **Note** that ERO intends to release these, along with a webinar, in early 2022. **Noted**



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED



Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

19 / 12 / 2021