**Letter to the parents, whānau, kaiako and educators**

# ERO’s Akarangi | Quality Evaluation of Your Home-based Education and Care Early Childhood Service

The Education Review Office (ERO) will soon be undertaking an Akarangi | Quality Evaluation of your early childhood service provider. Your service provider will let you know when the review team will be with your home-based service.

Akarangi | Quality Evaluation is part of ERO’s Quality Framework for Evaluation and Improvement Ngā Ara Whai Hua. An Akarangi | Quality Evaluation evaluates the extent to which services have the learning and organisational conditions to support children’s learning.

As part of the Akarangi | Quality Evaluation ERO will visit a sample of educator homes.

***The Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act)***

**Section 624:** gives ERO power to enter and inspect, without warrant, homes used by licensed   
 home-based education and care services subject to certain requirements.

**Section 625:**  Review Officers to prove identity before acting under section 624.

**Section 624 of the Act includes:**

* reviewing and evaluating curriculum delivery and health and safety performance in a home used by a licensed home-based education and care service at any reasonable time given reasonable notice to the relevant service provider
* a review officer may only inspect those areas of a home that are used to provide the licensed home-based education and care service
* if a service provider receives notice, the service provider must provide the Education Review Office with a list of the addresses of all the homes where the service provider provides a licensed home-based education and care service. A review officer may request those given notice to provide, before the entry, information that is reasonably necessary or desirable to carry out the inspection or inquiries
* the request may be part of the notice.

The service provider and the review coordinator will discuss how:

* the addresses of educator homes will be shared with consideration to privacy and security of the information; and
* home entry can be undertaken to be as minimally intrusive as possible.

What does ERO want to know?

A Quality Evaluation focuses on the extent to which your early childhood service has the learning and organisational conditions to support each child’s learning and development.

To find this out, ERO will discuss what your service knows about what is happening for children, what is contributing or hindering this and what your service is doing to improve quality.

The service and ERO will use *Te Ara Poutama: Indicators-of-quality: Pike Ake Kake Ake; Indicators of quality for early childhood education: what matters most* (available on EROs website). This is to make judgements about children’s learning in relation to the outcomes of *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum.

ERO reviewers will talk with adults in the service, read documents and observe aspects of the curriculum. ERO will also be interested in how parents and whānau are supported to contribute to their child’s learning and how kaiako, educators, parents and whānau are involved in decision-making in the service.

Once we have all the information we need, ERO will summarise what we found in a brief report. The report will be sent to your service provider and will be published on our website after the review. [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)

Our review officers are happy to talk to parents, whānau and educators during the review.  ERO has developed a resource for parents *What Matters Most* – for your child and their learning in an early childhood service. This is available on ERO’s website.

We look forward to being in your early childhood service.

ERO review team