

ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: Little Climbers Homebased Education and Childcare

Profile Number: 47389

Location: East Tamaki, Auckland

1 ERO's judgement of Little Climbers Homebased Education and Childcare is as follows:

Domains: Ngā Akatoro	Below the threshold for quality		Above the threshold for quality	
The learner and their learning He Whāriki Motuhake	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Collaborative professional learning and development builds knowledge and capability Whakangungu Ngaio	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Leadership fosters collaboration and improvement Kaihautū	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Stewardship through effective governance and management Te Whakaruruhau	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling

For an explanation of the judgement terms used and of the evaluation process please refer to the last page of this report. These judgements are based on the evidence provided to ERO during the evaluation.

Children's health and safety

Improvement required

Taking reasonable steps

2 ERO's Judgements

[Akarangi | Quality Evaluations](#) evaluate the extent to which early childhood services have the learning and organisational conditions to support equitable and excellent outcomes for all learners. [Te Ara Poutama Indicators of quality for early childhood education: what matters most](#) and [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Improvement Framework \(teacher led services\)](#) are the basis for making judgements about the quality of the service in achieving equity and excellence for all learners. Evaluations for improvement | Ngā Aronga Whai Hua is integrated across all of the above domains.

3 About the Service

Little Climbers Homebased Education and Childcare is one of two quality networks owned and governed by Little Climbers Limited. The qualified owner provides leadership support to a recently appointed visiting teacher (VT) and 12 educators, most of whom were present at the previous ERO review. External consultants also provide additional curriculum and mentoring support. The VTs from each network work collaboratively to implement the service's vision. Majority of the children attending are of Tongan heritage and some children identify as Indian. A few children of other ethnicities also attend.

4 Progress since the previous ERO report

The January 2023 ERO report identified that visiting teachers needed to extend educators' understanding of children's learning and ways to respond meaningfully to their interests. Good progress has been made with supporting educators to identifying and extending upon children's interests. Educators require continued support to recognize and extend children's learning.

5 Learning Conditions

The learner and their learning | He Whāriki Motuhake

Children experience an inclusive curriculum that reflects *Te Whāriki* the early childhood curriculum.

- Children demonstrate a sense of belonging and their learning is supported through educators' caring and responsive practices.
- VT supports educators to provide activities based on children's interests through playgroups, workshops, monthly meetings and visits. Assessment records show educators and VT identifying and extending upon children's interests.
- VT supports educators to recognize and respond to children's learning, using the learning outcomes from *Te Whāriki*. This is yet to be consistent across all educator's documentation.

Collaborative professional learning and development builds knowledge and capability | Whakangungu Ngaio

The service provider and VT are taking steps to build shared understandings of bicultural practice and Pacific cultures and values.

- Educators are beginning to provide some aspects of a bicultural curriculum and celebrate cultural events. Assessment documentation requires a more explicit focus on showing individual children's culture, language and identity.
- VT and educators participate in a recently established process for mentoring and support. This provides opportunities for the VT to deepen her understanding of the curriculum and further support educators.
- VT supports educators through coaching and mentoring to improve practice. The documentation is yet to show the effectiveness of these practices.

6 Organisational conditions

Leadership fosters collaboration and improvement | Kaihautū

The service provider and VT are collaboratively building relational trust with educators to create improvement in outcomes for children.

- VT support educators to meet regulatory requirements and assume responsibility for the health and safety, wellbeing and learning of children in the homebased network.
- The service provider and VTs from both networks collaboratively undertake self-review/ internal evaluation leading to improved outcomes for children.
- Internal evaluation documentation needs to make more explicit the shifts in educator practice, and their impact in relation to outcomes for children.

Stewardship through effective governance and management | Te Whakaruruhau

The service's strategic plan prioritises children's learning and wellbeing, and its priorities for learning influence resource allocation and decision making.

- The service provider prioritises children's learning and wellbeing by enabling educators to gain a relevant ECE qualification.
- The service provider enables building of VT's professional knowledge and educator capability through accessing relevant external professional learning opportunities.
- Service provider and VT are supporting educators to provide a bicultural curriculum to enact the homebased networks' vision and meet their expectations.

7 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Little Climbers Homebased Education and Childcare completed and *ERO 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 system for managing the following areas that have a potentially high impact on children's health and safety:

- emotional safety (including positive guidance and child protection)
- physical safety (including supervision; sleep procedures; accidents; medication; excursion policies and procedures)
- suitable staffing (safety checking of staff, ratios)
- relevant evacuation procedures and practices.

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

8 Where to next for improvement?

Little Climbers Homebased Education and Childcare will include the following actions in its quality improvement planning:

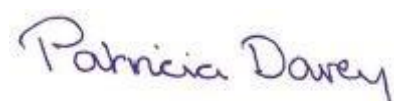
Service provider to build VT capability to:

- continue to support educators in using the learning outcomes from *Te Whāriki* to show children's learning overtime
- support educators to continue to increase the visibility of their response to children's identity, language and culture within assessment documentation
- evaluate the effectiveness of their practices in relation to improving educator practice and learning outcomes for all children.

Activities undertaken by the evaluation team

- Pre-visit contact with the service provider/manager.
- Reading documentation and records of children's learning and development.
- Scanning the learning environment and resources.
- Observations of interactions and teaching practice while onsite.
- Meetings and / or conversations with leaders and teachers.
- Sampling of information related to compliance.

[*Further information about how ERO evaluates early childhood services is available here.*](#)



Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

27 November 2024

9 Information About the Service

Service Type	Home-based service
Number licenced for	50 children, including up to 50 aged under 2
Ethnic composition <i>Using rounded percentages</i>	Tongan 56%, Indian 38%, other ethnic groups 6%
Service roll	48
Review team on site	August 2024
Date of this report	27 November 2024
Most recent ERO report (s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Akanuku Assurance Review, January 2023;

Description around ERO's judgement terms

ERO's judgements are based on *Te Ara Poutama* and the *Early Childhood Education Improvement Framework (teacher led services)*.

	Above the threshold for quality
Excelling	The service is excelling in the learning and organisation to support high quality education and care for children
Embedded	The service has embedded its learning and organisational conditions to support ongoing improvement to the quality of education and care for children.
	Below the threshold for quality
Working towards	The service is working towards establishing the learning and organisational conditions to support improvements in the quality of education and care for children.
Improvement required	The service has not yet developed the learning and organisational conditions to support quality education and care for children.