



ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: Strawberry Garden Childcare

Profile Number: 47240

Location: Bayview, Napier

1 ERO's judgement of Strawberry Garden 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

Strawberry Garden Childcare is a privately owned early childhood centre. In June 2024 there was a change in ownership, a newly employed curriculum leader and some changes to the teaching team.

The centre's philosophy emphasises the importance of relationships with children and their families where children experience an environment that promotes investigation, curiosity, imagination and resourcefulness. Approximately one third of children who attend are Māori.

4 Progress since the previous ERO report

The March 2023 Akanuku | Assurance Review identified a key next step to continue to develop the local curriculum to reflect the things that are important to children, their families, teachers, and the wider community. Te ao Māori concepts of whanaungatanga, whatumanawa and kaitiakitanga are fore fronted. Leaders and teachers continue to make good progress of the local curriculum through incorporating authentic meaningful relationships and dialogue with children, teachers and whānau.

5 Learning Conditions

The learner and their learning | He Whāriki Motuhake

Children experience a curriculum that is instilled by inclusive practices, reflective of a culture of care and respect.

- Children are viewed as competent, confident and capable learners. Teachers promote children's agency, independence and decision making through intentional resourcing and learning environments.
- Te reo Māori and tikanga Māori are interwoven through the programme. Children demonstrate and actively engage in tuakana-teina relationships (older-younger children), whanaungatanga, whatumanawa and kaitiakitanga learning experiences.
- A range of assessment tools are being reviewed and are undergoing change. Leaders have self-identified in the strategic plan to implement effective and collaborative assessment, planning and evaluation across the team.

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

Organisational conditions increasingly support and enable leaders and teachers to build their cultural competence, professional knowledge and expertise to implement a responsive curriculum for children.

- Teachers have opportunities to access a range of professional learning to build individual growth, team cohesion with positive outcomes for children.
- Teaching inquiry processes are contributing to positive changes to teacher practice.
- A collaborative, strategic approach is taken to building teachers' cultural expertise. They continue to progress knowledge and understanding of Pacific cultures and values.

6 Organisational conditions

Leadership fosters collaboration and improvement | Kaihautū

A distributed leadership team approach provides opportunities for all teachers to further their learning, taking collective responsibility for the wellbeing and learning of children and their families in the service.

- Leaders are refining systems processes and practices to successfully implement quality teaching practices.
- Leaders work collaboratively to enact the centre's vision, plans and priorities for children's learning. Recently revised learning priorities impact children's daily experiences.
- Leaders have developed an understanding of internal evaluation with external support. This continues to be an area to further progress.

Stewardship through effective governance and management | Te Whakaruruhau

The learning and wellbeing of children and their whānau is pivotal in the decision making at the service.

- Children who require additional learning support are well supported through a team who collaborate with external agencies.
- Governance prioritises relationships as an underpinning principle to developing partnerships with children, whānau and teachers.
- Leaders use a range of information to develop and refine strategic priorities.

7 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Strawberry Garden Childcare completed an *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?

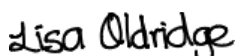
Strawberry Garden Childcare will include the following actions in its quality improvement planning:

- Increase leaders and teachers knowledge and develop a shared understanding of Pacific cultures and values to inform curriculum decisions.
- Leaders to build knowledge and understanding of effective internal evaluation across the teaching team to know what is or is not working for individuals and groups of 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.](#)



Lisa Oldridge
Director of Early Childhood Education (Acting)

23 May 2025

9 Information About the Service

Service Type	Education and care service
Number licenced for	36 children, including up to 12 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	100%
Ethnic composition <i>Using rounded percentages</i>	Māori 33%; NZ European/Pākehā 43%; Pacific 4%; other ethnic groups 20%.
Service roll	41
Review team on site	January 2025
Date of this report	23 May 2025
Most recent ERO report (s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Akanuku Assurance Review, March 2023; Akanuku Assurance Review, December 2018

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 organisational conditions 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.