

6 March 2012

## **To the Parents and Community of Lakeview Private Kindergarten**

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Lakeview Private Kindergarten.

Lakeview Private Kindergarten, in Takapuna, caters for children from two to five years of age. In 2011, a new owner with early childhood qualifications and management experience purchased the kindergarten. Working alongside teachers, she has made significant changes that have improved the quality of the programme and the outdoor environment of the centre.

Children settle quickly into the programme. They make choices in their play and have some useful opportunities for sustained play. Children are confident to approach adults, who support them to engage in complex conversations on a range of topics. Their interactions with each other and with adults are respectful and positive.

Teachers work well as a team and communicate effectively with families. They promote children's literacy and numeracy skills in play, and the development of their motor skills through physical activities. Teachers use appropriate assessment and planning processes to document children's learning. They are developing their responsiveness to children's interests. Staff plan to explore ways to revisit children's learning so that they can show clearly the progress that has been made.

Parents and families appreciate the positive changes in the kindergarten and are becoming more involved in the planning, assessment and evaluation of their child's learning. Parents and whānau appreciate the open communication and consultation processes that are used to inform centre review and decision making.

The kindergarten is well managed. A useful strategic plan and effective management systems guide kindergarten operations. Inclusive leadership practices have enabled teachers to develop a detailed centre philosophy. Self review is well structured and is beginning to be used to make improvements to the programme. ERO recommends that teachers use external professional development and internal support to further develop assessment, planning and evaluation practices and to improve their responsiveness to individual children's interests.

### **Future Action**

ERO is likely to review the service again in three years.

When ERO has reviewed an early childhood centre we encourage management to inform their community of any follow up action they plan to take. You should talk to

the management or contact person if you have any questions about this evaluation, the full ERO report or their future intentions.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the centre or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. a. Smith'.

Makere Smith  
National Manager Review Services  
Northern Region (Acting)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT REVIEWS

### About ERO

ERO is an independent, external evaluation agency that undertakes reviews of schools and early childhood services throughout New Zealand.

### About ERO Reviews

ERO follows a set of standard procedures to conduct reviews. The purpose of each review is to:

- improve quality of education for children in early childhood centres; and
- provide information to parents, communities and the Government.

Reviews are intended to focus on outcomes for children and build on each centre's self review.

### Review Focus

ERO's framework for reviewing and reporting is based on four review strands.

- **Quality of Education** – including the quality of the programme provided for children, the quality of the learning environment and the quality of the interactions between staff and children and how these impact on outcomes for children.
- **Additional Review Priorities** – other aspects of the operation of a centre, may be included in the review. ERO will not include this strand in all reviews.
- **National Evaluation Topics** – This strand contributes to the development of education policies and their effective implementation. The information from this strand is aggregated by ERO for its national evaluation reports. Topics for investigation are changed regularly to provide up-to-date information.
- **Compliance with Legal Requirements** – assurance that this centre has taken all reasonable steps to meet legal requirements.

### Review Coverage

ERO reviews do not cover every aspect of centre performance and each ERO report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to positive outcomes for children and useful to this centre.

### Review Recommendations

Most ERO reports include recommendations for improvement. A recommendation on a particular issue does not necessarily mean that a centre is performing poorly in relation to that issue. There is no direct link between the number of recommendations in this report and the overall performance of this centre.