

8 June 2011

To the Parents and Community of Kowhai Kids Educare - The Nest

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Kowhai Kids Educare - The Nest.

Kowhai Kids Educare – The Nest is a privately owned early childhood centre providing care and education for infants and toddlers in the Warkworth community. The service was opened in January 2009 and is adjacent to the larger centre, Kowhai Kids, which caters for children over two years of age. A new centre manager has been recently appointed to oversee both services. The new team leader for The Nest has made a successful start in the shift of focus needed to improve the infant programme.

Families speak positively about their relationship with the centre. They view The Nest as small, homely and comfortable, and the staff as kind and supportive. Teachers are welcoming to parents and value them as partners in their children's education and care. Parents are kept well informed about their children's learning activities and milestones through the use of daily notebooks, portfolios and informal conversation.

Children play alongside each other in a settled, relaxed atmosphere. Their confidence in approaching adults reflects their sense of wellbeing and belonging in the centre. A staff focus on positive behaviour guidance is having a favourable effect on the tone of the centre, as well as on children's engagement in sociable play. Teachers communicate respectfully with children through warm and affirmative interactions. Teacher practice is beginning to benefit from the influence of researched philosophies on infant care. Centre managers recognise that they need to develop a philosophy statement that better reflects the nature of care being offered in the centre.

The centre manager is currently exploring ways to make planning practices more purposeful and manageable. Teachers should record the ways in which they plan to respond to individual children's strengths, needs and interests so that their learning progresses and can be monitored over time.

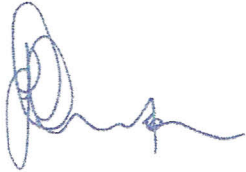
Centre managers and teachers are beginning to use self review as a tool to improve teaching and learning and outcomes for children. Informal and formal systems are being devised to make better use of strategic planning. ERO, the licensee and management agree that it will be helpful to develop new policies to guide teaching practice in the centre.

Future Action

ERO is likely to review the service again within 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Thornton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Thornton
National Manager Review Services
Northern Region