



ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: Happy Hearts Riverhead Early Learning Centre

Profile Number: 46819

Location: Riverhead, Auckland

1 ERO's Judgements

[Akarangi | Quality Evaluation](#) evaluates the extent to which this early childhood service has 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](#) are the basis for making judgements about the effectiveness of the service in achieving equity and excellence for all learners. Judgements are made in relation to the Outcomes Indicators, Learning and Organisational Conditions. The [Evaluation Judgement Rubric](#) derived from the indicators, is used to inform ERO's judgements about this service's performance in promoting equity and excellence.

ERO's judgements for Happy Hearts Riverhead Early Learning Centre are as follows:

Outcome Indicators (What the service knows about outcomes for learners)	Whakaū Embedding
<u>Ngā Akatoro Domains</u>	
Learning Conditions	Whakaū Embedding
Organisational Conditions	Whakaū Embedding

2 Context of the Service

Happy Hearts Riverhead Early Learning Centre has two owners who are responsible for daily operations. They are supported by a longstanding external consultant. There is a team of seven qualified teachers and six unqualified staff. Small numbers of Māori or Pacific children are enrolled.

3 Summary of findings

Children experience an environment that positively promotes their decision-making and independence. Their mana is fostered within a responsive curriculum that supports them to take increasing responsibility for their own wellbeing, and the wellbeing of others. They are well supported by teachers to manage and express their emotions with confidence.

Transitions into, within and from the service to school, support each child's individual needs. Infants and toddlers benefit from a calm, unhurried curriculum that gives them space and time to explore.

Te reo Māori is promoted in learning documentation. Leaders acknowledge a need to increase the opportunities children have to hear and speak te reo Māori within the daily curriculum.

Teachers actively engage in critical reflection and mentoring to deepen their understanding of useful curriculum and assessment practices. They are working to strengthen the extent to which children's languages and cultures are reflected in assessment records.

A new system for internal evaluation has been developed that aims to grow teachers' participation in evaluation, inquiry and knowledge building activities. Evaluation is well linked to the service's strategic priorities and teachers' professional goals. Leaders now aim to develop the capability and collective capacity of the teaching team to do and use evaluation, to show how the curriculum and teaching practices impact on improved outcomes for children.

Those responsible for governance and management allocate resources in ways that align with their philosophy, vision, and goals for children's learning. They have carefully selected external expertise and implemented mentoring and coaching systems to grow shared understanding of valued and effective teaching practices. Leaders model and expect professional accountability and collective responsibility for the wellbeing and learning of all children at this service.

4 Improvement actions

Happy Hearts Riverhead Early Learning Centre will include the following actions in its Quality Improvement Planning:

- Increase the opportunities children have to hear and speak te reo Māori in meaningful learning contexts.
- Strengthen the extent to which information documented about children's learning reflects their identity, languages and cultures.
- Use the robust system developed for internal evaluation to engage in a meaningful cycle of review that clearly shows the impact of the curriculum and teaching practices on improved outcomes for children.

5 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Happy Hearts Riverhead Early Learning Centre 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 systems for managing the following areas that have a potentially high impact on children's wellbeing:

- emotional safety (including positive guidance and child protection)
- physical safety (including supervision; sleep procedures; accidents; medication; hygiene; excursion policies and procedures)
- suitable staffing (including qualification levels; safety checking; teacher registration; 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.



Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

6 September 2023

6 About the Early Childhood Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	82 children, including up to 18 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80-99%
Service roll	90
Review team on site	July 2023
Date of this report	6 September 2023
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Akanuku Assurance Review, August 2021 Education Review, March 2018