



ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: Edna McCulloch Kindergarten

Profile Number: 5485

Location: Oamaru

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 Edna McCulloch Kindergarten are as follows:

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

2 Context of the Service

Edna McCulloch Kindergarten is one of five kindergartens in the Oamaru Kindergarten Association (OKA). Children who attend are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, almost a quarter of whom are Māori, and there is a small number of Pacific children. A general manager and senior teacher support the head teacher and teaching team. The kindergarten has made good progress in relation to assessment, planning and evaluation practices, as identified in the 2018 ERO report.

3 Summary of findings

Children are affirmed as individuals. They have many opportunities to learn within a rich, culturally responsive curriculum. Teachers work very effectively with children and whānau to support their wellbeing and transition to school. They identify and remove barriers to support children's full participation in the curriculum. The kindergarten's learning priorities of:

- whanaungatanga - relationships and sense of family connection
- manaakitanga - care and respect
- maia - brave, capable, and confident

are strongly reflected in the curriculum and through teacher interactions.

Te reo Māori and tikanga Māori are well integrated into the daily curriculum. Learning experiences support children to learn about the dual heritages of Aotearoa New Zealand and contribute to Māori children knowing that their cultural heritage is valued.

Learning priorities are well embedded within the curriculum and align to the learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum. These priorities inform assessment, planning and evaluation. Assessment records show children's learning is intentionally extended over time. While teachers engage in regular conversations with whānau about their children's learning, they are yet to make whānau aspirations evident in learning documentation.

A deliberate approach is in place to build leadership capability within and across Oamaru Kindergartens. This has enabled the board, managers and teaching teams to effectively implement the association's strategic vision and goals. Each teaching team benefits from ongoing mentoring and guidance provided by the association.

Internal evaluation processes are embedding. Improvements and outcomes from evaluations are regularly reported to the board. While quality indicators are evident, they are not yet used purposefully to guide the evaluation process, and to inform data analysis and actions taken. Deepening the teaching teams' use of effective internal evaluation is now required.

The board and leaders are future focused and provide a range of initiatives that enable families and communities to participate in the kindergarten. Useful systems and processes guide the operation and management of the kindergarten. Effective processes are in place to monitor that licensing requirements are being met.

4 Improvement actions

Edna McCulloch Kindergarten will include the following actions in its Quality Improvement Planning:

- More deliberately use the information gathered from whānau about their aspirations for their child's learning to inform planning and assessment.
- Make better use of indicators of best practice through all stages of internal evaluation. Ensure reporting is evaluative and consistently focused on outcomes for children and shifts in practice.

5 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Edna McCulloch Kindergarten 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.

6 Actions for Compliance

During the review, the service provided ERO with evidence that shows it has addressed the following non-compliances:

- Heavy equipment that could fall and cause serious injury or damage (HS6).
- The procedure people should follow should they wish to complain about non-compliances with the Regulations or licensing criteria should include details of the local Ministry of Education office (GMA1).

Patricia Davey

Patricia Davey
Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

15 June 2023

7 About the Early Childhood Service

Service type	Free Kindergarten
Number licensed for	40 children aged over 2 years
Percentage of qualified teachers	100%
Service roll	51
Review team on site	March, 2023
Date of this report	15 June 2023
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Education Review, June 2018 Education Review, January 2015