

28 March 2012

### **To the Parents and Community of Lancaster Learning Centre**

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Lancaster Learning Centre.

Lancaster Learning Centre, located in a residential area in Beach Haven, provides good quality care and education for children from six months old to school age. Teachers are responsive to children's interests and support children to become confident, capable learners.

Children are friendly and curious. They benefit from quality interactions with positive teachers who have warm and caring relationships with them. Younger children are well provided for with their own indoor area and they share an outdoor area. Children benefit from mixed age play, with good supervision from teachers. Flexible routines enable children to have very good opportunities to sustain play and develop independence.

Teachers work well as a team to promote and support children's learning. They respect children's decisions and play alongside them. Teachers are caring and comfort and reassure children promptly. Children and their families benefit from teachers knowing them well and teachers encourage children to extend their capabilities through play and are continuing to find ways to promote more complex play.

Children have good opportunities to make decisions and choices in their play. Curriculum management processes are well established and professional development has led to improved outcomes for children. Assessment processes have been refined and learning is analysed well to identify children's strengths and next learning steps. Children's ideas and parents' views are valued and used to inform decision making. Families and whanau feel welcome at the centre and appreciate the improvements to portfolios that highlight their child's learning. The home-like environment, good quality meals and ongoing communication with families further promotes positive relationships and strengthens the home-centre partnership.

Effective leadership by the centre owners is underpinned by useful and collaborative self review. The centre philosophy has been reviewed and teachers are working to embed it in their teaching practice. Centre leaders plan to increase opportunities for children to learn about New Zealand's bicultural heritage. Strengthening self review, strategic planning and some health and safety management processes would further enhance the quality of centre operations.

## 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.

### **Future Action**

ERO is likely to review the centre 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>.



Makere Smith  
National Manager Review Services  
Northern Region (Acting)