



ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: Four Seasons Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten

Profile Number: 45608

Location: Taupō

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 Four Seasons Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten are as follows:

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

2 Context of the Service

The service is a well-established centre in suburban Taupō. The roll is ethnically diverse with almost a quarter of enrolled children identifying as Māori. Three owners are responsible for governance, and a teaching principal leads a small team of teachers. The current teaching team was established in mid-2021.

3 Summary of findings

Children experience a rich and wide-ranging curriculum that supports their exploration and learning. Teachers draw effectively from the Rudolf Steiner approach, where development happens through play and imitation in a natural environment, alongside *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum. Routines are well known by children, enabling them make predictions and feel secure. Children of Māori descent experience a bicultural setting that celebrates te ao Māori through the meaningful use of waiata, te reo Māori, and tikanga Māori relevant to the local area. Children of all ages engage in self-directed learning, and benefit from their wellbeing being nurtured.

Children's development is positively impacted by productive relationships between parents and teachers. The centre philosophy is clearly enacted, and there is a focus on connecting through frequent discussion and conversation. While elements of parents' aspirations are evident in some assessment of children's learning, the service has identified the need to more deeply use information to inform learning and experiences. ERO affirms this action. Individual children's culture, language and identity are not yet consistently incorporated in assessment practices.

The governance group is taking deliberate steps to promote continued positive outcomes for children, despite significant team change and a new leadership structure. Ongoing access to relevant professional learning, and support for parents through parenting classes, benefits both children and adults. Close attention to learning conditions by teachers and leaders fosters support for children with diverse needs. Leaders are yet to ensure there is collective responsibility for internal evaluation practices that further understanding of equitable outcomes for children.

4 Improvement actions

Four Seasons Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten will include the following actions in its Quality Improvement Planning:

- Clearly define roles and responsibilities within the new leadership structure to support ongoing improvement for children, their parents, and teachers.
- Develop a shared understanding of culturally responsive practice to reflect and celebrate children's individual cultures, languages and identities through assessment practice and the curriculum.
- Further strengthen internal evaluation processes to ensure a collective understanding of what has worked, why and for which individuals and groups of children.

5 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of Four Seasons Rudolf Steiner 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.



Phil Cowie
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Central Region | Te Tai Pūtahi Nui

28 November 2022

6 About the Early Childhood Service

Service type	Education and care service
Number licensed for	30 children aged over 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	100%
Service roll	41
Review team on site	September 2022
Date of this report	28 November 2022
Most recent ERO report(s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Education Review, July 2019; Education Review, February 2016