

28 March 2012

To the Parents and Community of Airport Oaks Montessori Preschool

This supplementary review evaluates the quality of education and care received by the children and the performance of the centre's management in relation to specific terms of reference.

The Education Review Office [ERO] evaluation of Airport Oaks Montessori Preschool follows.

Airport Oaks Montessori Preschool in Mangere Bridge, Auckland offers sessional or full-day care for children over two years of age. The owners, one of whom is the professional manager of the centre, opened the service eleven years ago. The centre owners have responded well to many of the areas for improvement and non-compliance identified by ERO in 2009.

The centre manager is leading the establishment of self-review processes and practices. Management planning is beginning to guide centre development in a more systematic way. The continued development of collaborative and consultative review should impact positively on outcomes for children.

Staff are caring and supportive and involve themselves in children's play. More flexible routines and access to a greater range of resources provides children with good opportunities to engage in play of their choice. Children are confident and settled and enjoy positive social relationships with staff and with their peers.

Staff provide a programme that is a mix of Montessori activities and practices based on *Te Whāriki*, the New Zealand early childhood curriculum. An increased focus on in-depth review of the programme and teachers' practice should result in ongoing improvement. Externally facilitated professional development for all staff on programme planning and assessment should also benefit children's learning and development.

Management and staff continue to involve parents/whānau in the centre. Parents have formal opportunities to meet with staff to discuss children's learning. They are also welcome to choose a time to visit during a session. The centre manager has appropriately identified enhancing partnerships with families as a priority for the 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 do. You should talk to

the management or licensee 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 black ink, appearing to read 'M. a. Smith'.

Makere Smith
National Manager Review Services
Northern Region (Acting)