

To the Parents and Community of BJ's Homebased Childcare Services

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on **BJ's Homebased Childcare Services.**

BJ's Homebased Childcare Services Ltd operates a home-based childcare and education service. It was established in 2004 to provide an organisational base for the provision of home-based childcare in Whangarei and the rural towns and districts in Northland. This is the first review of the service.

BJ's caregivers, provide home-based care and education for children from birth to school age in the caregivers own homes. Health, safety and compliance checks are systematic and regular, and a handbook for all caregivers contains the expectations and policies of the organisation. Good quality equipment and resources support children's play and developmental needs. Parents contacted in the course of his review express high levels of appreciation, and satisfaction with the care and education provided for their children.

Respectful and responsive relationships between caregivers, coordinators, children and their families are a special characteristic of home-based care. Caregivers know the children extremely well and attend quickly to their physical and emotional needs. They are appreciative of the affirming and supportive visits provided by fully qualified co-coordinators. Children respond enthusiastically to coordinators' visits. Children are comfortable and confident in their surroundings and demonstrate a strong sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Children benefit from the provision of good opportunities to play and learn in caregivers' homes. These learning experiences are enriched by excursions to community resources and facilities. Playgroups provide opportunities for children to socialise with peers and engage in a wider variety of activities. Coordinators should continue to support caregivers in using strategies that notice and further extend children's interests, increase the complexity of their play and enrich their educational opportunities. Coordinators are provided with appropriate information communication technologies, including digital cameras, to assist caregivers to document learning experiences that identify children's significant learning, their interests, and subsequent planning.

The management team work collaboratively to ensure children receive good quality home-based care and education. They have a philosophical belief in benefits of home-based care and learning. The owner has a strong commitment to staff and caregivers participating in ongoing education and training. Management has developed a framework of systems, policies and procedures that underpins service operations. The management team is aware that the documenting of discussions and processes should be strengthened to ensure that the arranger has a clear overview of service practices and provision.

This report evaluates the quality of education and care provided by network one of BJ's homebased childcare services. ERO interviewed parents, coordinators, and management and examined relevant documentation. Review officers observed children in the homes of a selection of caregivers, attend playgroup and surveyed performance and some areas for further development. The report includes recommendations that the management team should document processes to ensure transparency and promote ongoing improvement, and support caregivers in extending children's learning opportunities.

Future Action

ERO is confident that the service is being managed in the interests of the children. Therefore ERO will review the service again as part of the regular review cycle.

When ERO has reviewed an early childhood service we encourage management to inform their community of any follow up action they plan to take. You should talk to the management 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 service or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz>