

History

Playcentre is a unique New Zealand early childhood organisation. It began as a parent co-operative during the 1940s to support families and promote new developments in early childhood education and quickly grew. The New Zealand Playcentre Federation formed as a national organisation in 1948. For more than 60 years this largely voluntary organisation has met the changing needs of families and their communities. Today, Playcentre remains highly active in New Zealand's early childhood education sector.

NEW ZEALAND PLAYCENTRE FEDERATION JANUARY 2013

PLAYCENTRE FACT SHEET



Families Growing Together

Playcentre acknowledges and supports parents as the first and most important educators of their children. Involvement of family/whānau is a key feature of Playcentre and parents and children learn together.

Playcentre provides early childhood education for around 11,000 whānau/families and over 14,000 children from birth to school age.

Playcentres are co-operatively managed and supervised by parents with support from experienced Association and Federation personnel. Each of New Zealand's 481 Playcentres is affiliated to the New Zealand Playcentre Federation through one of its 33 regional Associations.

Playcentre implements the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum – Te Whāriki and Playcentres receive funding from the Ministry of Education.

The education environment at Playcentre includes a wide range of outdoor and indoor activities. With parent teams guiding and supporting children, they are introduced to the interests and skills of a wide range of parent-educators. Through learning in a supportive play environment, children develop the curiosity and courage to try new things and the motivation to extend themselves.

Playcentre is committed to being bicultural. We honour and are guided by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We operate on partnership and encourage the use of te reo meōna tikanga Māori in Playcentre.

Playcentre offers children:

- half day sessions, usually of mixed age groupings which allow siblings to attend together

- a variety of self-selected play activities and comprehensive quality equipment
- high adult to child ratios

Adult Education

Every Playcentre adult is offered free adult education that will give them the skills and confidence for parenting and working with children. The Playcentre Diploma is an NZQA qualification that consists of six courses.

The programme is based on experiential learning and includes workshops as well as hands-on experiences. Courses cover:

- parenting skills
- skills for working with children and running Playcentre sessions
- child development and how children learn
- cultural awareness
- knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- administrative, leadership and group facilitation skills

Playcentre Publications

Playcentre Publications is a major source of early childhood books written and published in New Zealand. These resources are widely used and respected by the Early Childhood sector in New Zealand and internationally.

Playcentre books cover topics such as play, parenting and leadership and include:

- 'The World in your Sandpit'* by Bernard Woodhams
- 'Magic Places'*, by Pennie Brownlee
- 'Take Another Look'*, by Pat Penrose
- 'Imagined Worlds'*, by Tanya Batt
- 'Working in a Group'*, by Tess Conran-Liew
- 'Making Consensus Work'* by Robbie Burke

The Playcentre Journal features informative articles and current issues in early childhood education.

All publications are available from:

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