

IF YOU'RE A PARENT OR CAREGIVER to a child under five years old, this information sheet tells you who can help with their education and care before they start school. Some help is free and some help you'll need to pay for.

Where can my child go?

There are different places your child can go to learn and be looked after. You need to choose what's right for you and your child.

Kindergartens are places where trained teachers look after and teach the children. They are usually privately run.

Play Centres are usually run by community groups with parents taking turns at teaching and looking after the children. Usually there is one adult looking after three to five children at a time.

Play groups are also run by parents, who look after and teach the children. While play groups meet regularly, they can be quite informal and are community-based groups, not designed to make money.

Kohanga reo are almost always taught in te reo Maori by whanau or teachers, with the children's families having input into their education.

Home-based care is where children are looked after and learn in their own homes.

Childcare centres can provide all day care for parents who are working or unable to care for their children during the day. They can also provide before and after school care for older children.

Who pays for what?



Once your child is three years old, they can have 20 free hours of early childhood education (ECE) each week, until they go to school. The free hours are offered by the Ministry of Education, and are **only** for places where a trained teacher is looking after your child. You need to check if the place you choose can give you the free hours or not, before you enrol. To find out how to get started, talk to an ECE provider, look at the 'Twenty Hours Free' website at www.teamup.co.nz or call 0800 204 433 for an information pack.

Depending on your financial situation, Work and Income may be able to provide help paying for childcare, if it isn't paid for by ECE. This includes pre-school childcare and Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) subsidies at approved providers. To find out what extra help you might be able to get, go to www.workandincome.govt.nz or phone 0800 559 009.

► More on the next page...



COMMUNITY SERVICES
Upper Hutt City Council

Enrol your child early

Wherever you choose to send your child, there will usually be a waiting list – so you need to enrol them early. If you want your child to go to kindergarten you can put their name on the list when they are two years old. (This doesn't mean they will automatically be able to start when they are three. If an older child is also on the list, and there are not enough places for everyone, that child will be able to start kindergarten first.)

Listed below are just some of the places that offer childcare and education services for children under five. There may be other services like these available that are not listed here. You may find more information on one of our other information sheets, or by contacting Upper Hutt CAB (ph 528 9040).

▶ **Barnardos** provides a wide range of assistance and can help you find the right child care provider. They also provide family support, counselling, domestic violence and child advocacy services.

Ph 569 1204 / 0800 KIDSTART

Where? Level 1, 330 High St, Lower Hutt

Email hutt.amu@barnardos.org.nz

www.barnardos.org.nz

▶ **Best Years Child Care** looks after children aged 4 months to 5 years old.

Ph 528 5399

Where? 1 Fraser Cres and 779 Fergusson Dr, Upper Hutt

▶ **Hutt Play Centre Association** will provide information on your nearest play centre. There is a good Play centre website (see below) that also provides this information.

Ph 971 8561

Where? 101 Trafalgar St, Waterloo

Email huttplay@paradise.net.nz

www.playcentre.org.nz

▶ The **PORSE Network** provides nannies and in-home educators.

Ph 528 0136

Where? 386 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Email lowerhutt@porse.co.nz

www.porse.co.nz

▶ **Stepping Stones Childcare Centre** supports working parents with educative childcare services.

Ph 528 7913

Where? 29 Seddon St, Upper Hutt

Email info@steppingstones.org.nz

www.steppingstones.org.nz

▶ **Orongomai Kohanga Reo** offers a total immersion te reo Maori whanau (family) programme for mokopuna (young children) to be raised within whanau Maori, from birth to 6 years.

Ph 528 4276

Where? Orongomai Marae, Railway Ave, Upper Hutt

▶ **Paparakau Kohanga Reo** offers Maori language pre-school care.

Ph 939 8158

Where? 58 Moonshine Rd, Upper Hutt

▶ **Purehurehu Kohanga Reo** offers pre-school Maori language education.

Ph 526 8882

Where? 6 Prestige Pl, Maoribank, Upper Hutt

Email whanau@K09a027.Kohanga.ac.nz

www.purehurehu.kohanga-reo.ac.nz

▶ **Rimutaka Kindergarten Association** will provide information on all local kindergartens. They are also listed on the website below.

Ph 528 8671

Where? Level 1, 10 Criterion Service Lane, Upper Hutt

Email office@rimukgtn.org.nz

www.rimukgtn.org.nz

▶ **Upper Valley Montessori Pre-school** for 3 to 5 year olds.

Ph 528 5223

Where? 3 Messines Ave, Trentham, Upper Hutt

Email monti@clear.net.nz

www.montessori.org.nz