



Preschoolers At-home
Uniquely Achieving



Grandparents as educators?

What do you do when you want to study, or you've been to an interview and the job has been offered to you, and you have a preschooler at home? As a parent, you have a number of choices, your job might fit around kindergarten hours, or would a childcare centre be a better option? If so, which one? Another option would be home-based care, but what if your first choice is for your child to be with whanau?

PAUA (Preschoolers At-home Uniquely Achieving) is a Homebased service which is passionate about providing quality in-home childcare solutions for parents. "A significant focus continues to be preschool care for children who are being cared for by their grandparents or other whanau members while their parents are working or studying. They are encouraged to access our service," Raewyn Overton-Stuart (PAUA Director) says. "Our resources, like books, puzzles, painting and craft materials are proving to be of immense value and can be obtained from PAUA Visiting Teachers to enhance the activities that are already in place. Children also have their own profile folder where photographic records of their learning and development are documented."

Jannine Kinnaird is a Wanganui grandparent who has been caring for her granddaughter Macee for the past seven months since mum, Jevada, went back to work during the week in



Enjoying mat time with friends at playgroup.

Wellington. "We had talked about Jevada taking Macee back to Wellington and putting her into a centre, but there was an opportunity for me to be able to look after her" Jannine said. "I was able to be at home for my children and I wanted Macee to have the same opportunity, so we decided that this would be the best option for us all."

How did you get involved with PAUA? "I was working in a bank, one of my customers in the bank came in to open an account and I needed to know what her occupation was. She told me that she didn't really know what to put, but that she was looking after her grandchildren. I knew that's what I was going to do so when she told me about PAUA I got in touch."

So has being with PAUA benefited you? "It's been excellent. The resources provided for Macee's learning and development are great. The support provided by the Visiting Teacher has meant I have someone to talk with about her



Macee exploring during library visit.

learning; the community outings and playgroups mean that she has interaction with other children."

As well as caring for her granddaughter Jannine has undertaken the "New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care" with PAUA offers Educator through 'Training for You'. "This study has

given me the opportunity to study further and understand more about my granddaughter's learning." Jannine says, "It should have been around when my kids were growing up because I just didn't realise about some of the things that they were doing."



Watching Rain and Riley enjoy the 'gloop' at playgroup

And the future? As an outcome of the study, Jannine is looking at offering care to other children whose parents are working and studying. "I feel more

confident about what I can offer as an Educator. I really recommend that any grandparent looking after their grandchildren enrolls with PAUA to get support for their own

grandchildren's learning because this is a job and you shouldn't do it alone. And also to take on the added challenge of the study. It's worth it!"




Proud to keep the educators talking!

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Do you have someone caring for your pre-schooler while you are working or studying?

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You could be entitled to support (including resources) from PAUA

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