



Preschoolers At-home Uniquely Achieving



What's Home-based Early Childhood Education?

Home-based education involves an Educator providing education and care for up to four children, under the supervision of a registered teacher who visits the educator at least once a month to provide advice and support. This education and care takes place in the caregiver's home, or at the child's home, on a full-day or part-day basis, and is part of a chartered home-based care network.

The Ministry of Education publication "Choices in Early Childhood Education" states that "many children are more comfortable and can learn more in small groups. They get on better with others and can express themselves. In small groups, teachers more easily treat children as individuals. Often there's greater cooperation between adult and child."

In PAUA and other

home-based early childhood services, the Homebased legislation requires that there are no more than four children under school age at any one time (including the Educator's own children) and within this group, there can be no more than two children aged under two years.

The lower ratio is one of the reasons why Katrina Edwardson recently moved her children from a childcare centre into Homebased care. "My children are really benefiting from the more one-to-one interactions with their Educator, and it's a double bonus that it's whanau who are now caring for them. So it's an all round benefit for both myself, Nan, and the girls" Katrina says. "There is more time to pick up on the girl's individual strengths, which are supported by Sandra, their Visiting Teacher, and the abundant supply of resources that are

provided for them. And the girls aren't missing out on the social interaction of bigger groups as they go to playgroups and community outings with PAUA."

Homebased Education is the biggest growth sector in Early Childhood. Since 1996 there has been a 45% growth for Homebased Networks, and a 69% increase in enrolments (compared to 59% increase in Education and care services and a decrease in enrolments for other services).

PAUA has also been part of this growth. From its inception in November 2003, PAUA has grown throughout the Central North Island and now has 15 Visiting Teachers based in Tauranga, Taupo, Turangi, Palmerston North, Pahiataua, Woodville, Kapiti Coast and Wanganui. "We have definitely seen the growth in the sector"

says Raewyn Overton-Stuart (PAUA's founder and Director), "and it is certainly still increasing as we are about to appoint a new Visiting Teacher in Taihape, and another here in Wanganui."

The Benefits of Home-based Early Childhood Education

- Small group size with a maximum of four children under six, never more than two children under two. Individual educational programmes are developed for each child.

- Children can develop responsive and reciprocal relationships with one significant other, particularly beneficial for children under two.

- Family activities such as shopping, library visits, and trips to the park provide valuable learning experiences for children.

- The child's own routines are able to be carried out in the educator's home.

- Education and care is provided in a predictable, calm and familiar environment that enables children to build trust.

- Flexibility of hours—care can be arranged to suit parent's needs.

- Regular visits from qualified Early Childhood Teachers to support the educator, child and family.

- WINZ subsidies and 20 Hours Free ECE are available to those who are eligible.

(taken from the New Zealand Home-based Early Childhood Education Association website – www.nzhomebasedece.org.nz)

When asked why Homebased Education is seeing such growth Raewyn replied, "I believe it's due to the quality relationships Educators have with their children. Recent studies within Homebased services have recognised the rich learning environment which is provided within the Homebased setting – the opportunity for children to interact with the community, going to parks, libraries and shops. We certainly see this with our Educators who go to a variety of activities with their children. On top of this PAUA has regular community outings where Educators, parents and children visit places together – recent trips have been to the Museum, Library and Bee Farm."



Sapphyer and Saffron Edwardson turn into bees at the Bee Farm.



Jewel, Saffron and Sapphyer Edwardson, Emily Hooker and Macee Huwyler with Sandra Watson (Visiting Teacher) enjoying a story at the library.



Paige Forsyth and Kerin Fowler check out the Lolly shop at the Museum.

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

Are you caring for someone else's pre-schooler at home?

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



Do you need childcare?

We have Home-based Educators with spaces available throughout Wanganui.



For more information or to see if you qualify please phone RAEWYN 344 7282 or 0800 728 277

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