

# Early Learning Action Plan 2019 to 2029: Summary



**He taonga te tamaiti  
Every child a taonga**

# Before you start



This is a long document.



While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this long.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read a few pages at a time
- have someone help you to understand it.

# What you will find in here

Page number:



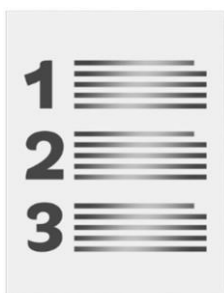
Introduction.....,4



Te Tiriti o Waitangi.....,9



Vision.....,10



Objectives.....,12



Objective 1.....13



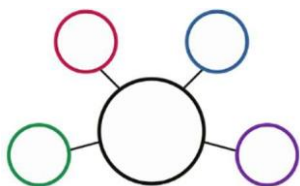
Objective 2.....19



Objective 3.....23



Objective 4.....38



Objective 5.....43



How will we know how well  
things are going?.....53

# Introduction



The Ministry of Education is part of the government.



This document is about the action plan the government has made for **early learning**.

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**Early learning** is for young children aged birth to 5 years old.



Early learning services are places like:

- kindy / kōhanga
- day care services for young children
- in home child care services
- playcentres.





We asked people what they thought about the ideas in the draft action plan.

We used the things people told us to make the final plan called:



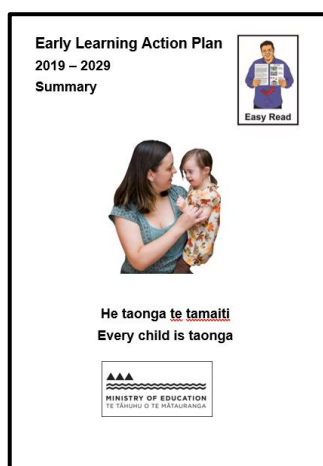
**He taonga te tamaiti – Every child a taonga: Early Learning Action Plan 2019 – 2029.**



**Taonga** means something that is:

- treasured
- very special.

In this plan taonga means we think our children deserve the very best early learning services.



This document is an Easy Read summary of what is in the final action plan.

### A summary:

- is shorter
- tells you the main ideas.



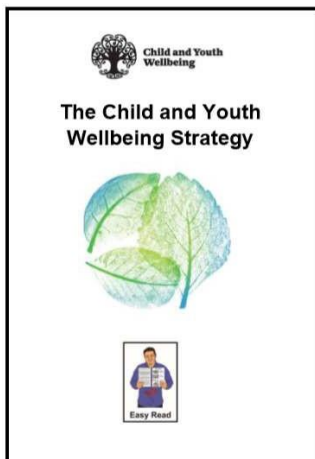
You can find the full plan at:

[www.conversation.education.govt.nz](http://www.conversation.education.govt.nz).



In another document called the **Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy** the government said that New Zealand should be the best place in the world for:

- children
- young people.



There is an Easy Read version of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy which you can find at:

[www.childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/resources/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy](http://www.childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/resources/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy).



Being able to get good early learning services is an important part of supporting children to have good lives.





We know that for children to have good early learning they need:

- good teaching
- services to be well run.

Early learning services need to include:



- parents
- family / whānau
- communities.



Parents need to be able to choose the early learning services that are right for their children.

# Te Tiriti o Waitangi



The government must follow the ideas we agreed to in The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We know that there are rights held by:



- whānau
- hapū
- iwi.



When we made this action plan we made sure these rights were part of it.



It is important to Māori that early learning services meet the needs of their children.

# Vision



**Vision** is how we think things should be.



Our vision is that early learning services support children with their:

- identity – knowing who they are
- language
- culture.





Good early learning services mean children can:

- have good lives
- learn
- do well.



Good early learning services also mean there is support for parents / whānau as the first teachers of their children.



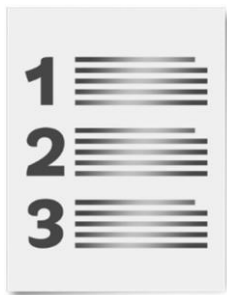
It also means we can make sure all children get a fair chance in life.

# Objectives



The plan has 5 **objectives**.

An **objective** is something we want to make happen.



Each objective has some actions.

**Actions** are the steps we want to take to make sure the objectives happen.



There are 25 actions in this plan.



## Objective 1:

Children should learn in places that look after their:

- wellbeing
- identity
- language
- culture.

**Wellbeing** is having a good life in lots of different ways like:

- feeling safe
- being able to learn
- making friends.



**Identity** is who you are.

Your identity can be made up of things like:

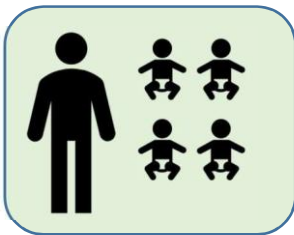
- where your family is from
- what language you speak at home
- the way you do things.

## Action 1:

**To have more adults for every child who is under 3 years old in early learning services.**

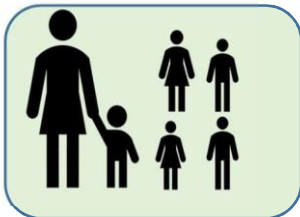


More adults would mean they can work better with small children.



We plan to change things so there must be 1 adult for every:

- 4 children under 2 years old
- 5 children who are more than 2 years old.



In the future we hope there will be 1 adult to every 3 children under 2 years old.



## Action 2:



**To have teachers that can work with groups of children in ways that support them to:**

- **get good care from their teachers**
- **learn different languages**
- **feel happy when they go to early learning services.**

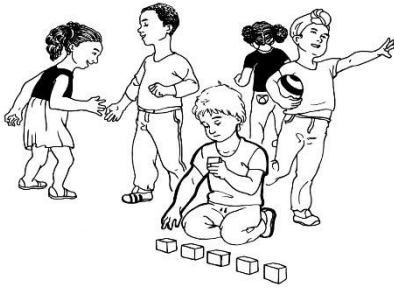


**We know that children need relationships with adults that:**

- **make them feel safe**
- **do not change too much**
- **meet their needs.**



### **Action 3:**



**The Ministry of Education wants to be able to give good advice about:**

- **how big the groups of children can be**
- **where things in centres should go or what centres should look like**
- **the things that should be in early learning services that look after the wellbeing of children.**



**Children learn better in places that:**

- **are warm**
- **have plenty of space**
- **let them be with nature.**



#### Action 4:



**Make it easier for parents / whānau to get information about the kinds of early learning services that are best for their children.**



The Ministry of Education wants to find out what information is missing about early learning services.



We want to make information that is:

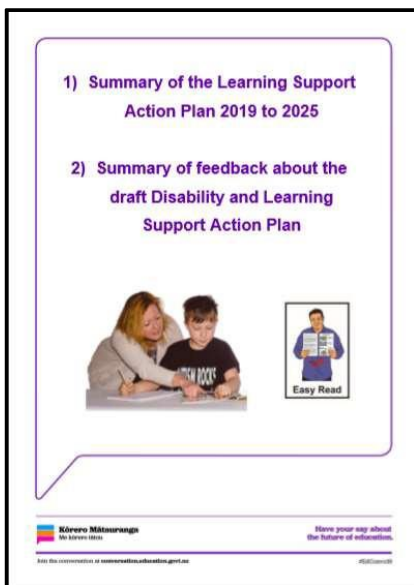
- easy for everyone to get and use
- in different languages.



## Objective 2:

All children should be able to:

- be part of early learning
- have the support they need to:
  - learn
  - do well.



The Ministry of Education has written another plan called the **Learning Support Action Plan 2019 – 2025**.

There is an Easy Read translation of this Learning Support Action Plan available from this website:

[www.conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/learning-support-action-plan/](http://www.conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/learning-support-action-plan/)



The Learning Action Support Plan talks about what we want to do to make our education system better for everyone.

Some of the things in the Learning Action Support Plan are:



- health checks for all 3 year old children
- working with other agencies so that all children get a fair chance from the start
- having better **early intervention** services.



**Early intervention** is about doing something so soon as possible to support children with things they find hard to do.

## Action 5:



**Look at the money the government gives to early learning services so that it can best support all of the children who use their services.**



The Ministry of Education will look at making sure the money is:

- used to support children to get the most from being in early learning services
- following the actions in the Learning Support Action Plan.



## Action 6:



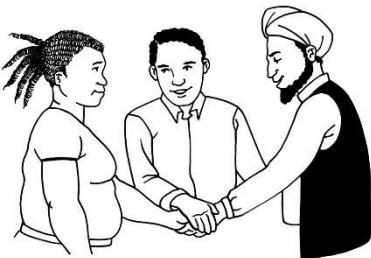
**To have support for children to get early learning from:**

- **health services like early intervention services**
- **social services like disability support services.**



We will also support agencies working together in ways that support children who find it hard to:

- learn well
- have a good life.





### **Objective 3:**

**Teachers / leaders in early learning services should be:**

- **well trained**
- **people with lots of different life experiences**
- **able to teach in ways that work well for children from all cultures.**





## Action 7:

**To have more teachers working in teacher-led early learning centres.**



**Teacher-led early learning centres** have trained teachers working in them.

This will mean that:



- 4 out of every 5 people working in these places will need to be teachers



- places that have all teachers will get more money.



Later on all the people working in these places will all be teachers.

## Action 8:

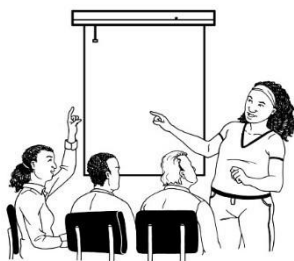


**People who do early learning services in their homes will also need to do more training.**

From 2019 there will be changes to how much money these services will get.



If people who look after children in their homes are trained then they will get more money.



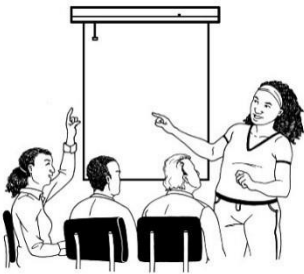
1 day everyone who works in home based early learning services will need to be trained.

## Action 9:

**We need to make sure there will be enough early learning teachers.**



As part of this there will be:



- support for trained teachers who have stopped working in early learning to come back to this work
- New Zealand teachers who live in other countries will get support to come back home to work in early learning services
- support for more Māori / Pacific people to become early learning teachers.

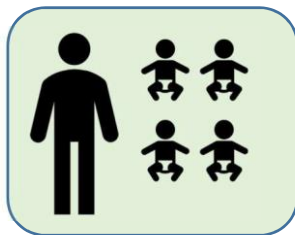


There will be money to help people do training on early learning so they can do this work.



Other things that will also support early learning teachers are things like having:

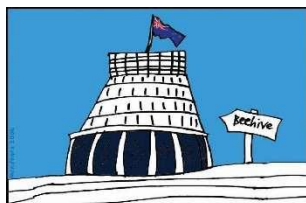
- better pay
- better ways to work
- more adults for every child in the centres.



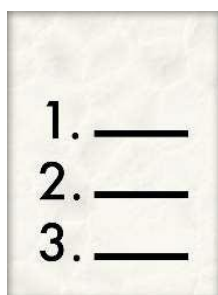


## Action 10:

### Better pay for early learning teachers.



We will probably have to make changes to the way the government gives money to early learning services.



It will be done bit by bit so that we can make sure things keep getting better in the future.



## Action 11:

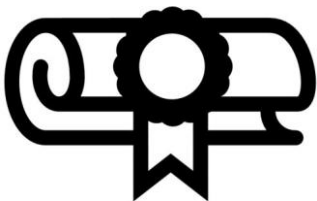
**Give better support to people who are learning how to be early learning teachers.**

There is a program called **Initial Teacher Education**.



**Initial Teacher Education** is the first training that people get to learn how to be teachers.

Initial Teacher Education is also called **ITE**.



The **Teaching Council of Aotearoa** has looked at how to make the ITE program better.

The Teaching Council of Aotearoa has:



- looked at the training teachers get
- made some changes to what needs to happen.

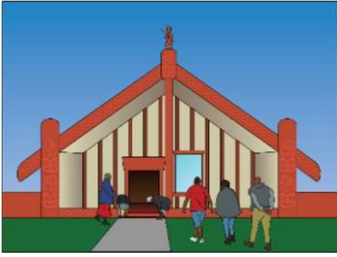
These changes will help to make sure that:



- there are different ways people can train to be teachers that work well for different people

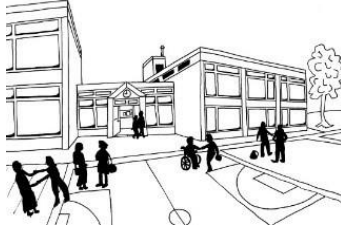


- people who have finished this training are ready to:
  - teach
  - do their next bit of training.



Places that do ITE have to make their training programmes better by working with communities like:

- iwi
- schools.



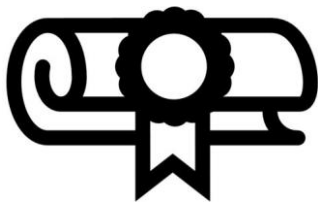


## Action 12:



**We need to make sure that Professional Learning and Development is:**

- well planned
- something we keep working on
- something that teachers all over New Zealand can do.



**Professional Learning and Development** is for teachers to keep learning even after they are trained.

Professional Learning and Development is also called **PLD**.



PLD supports teachers to:

- keep doing their job well
- do their job even better.



We need PLD that looks at:

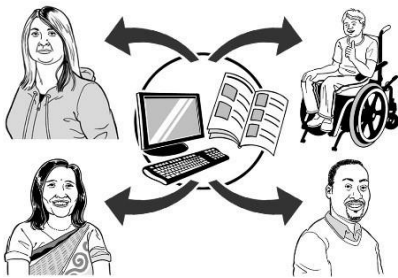
- language
- identity
- culture
- inclusion of disabled children.



## Action 13:

The Ministry of Education will start having hubs for:

- finding things out
- looking at new ways to do things.



A **hub** is where different groups come together to:

- share what they know
- work together.

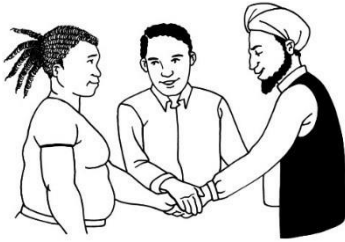


These hubs will mean that people can share information about early learning services.



People will be able to use these hubs on the internet.

## Action 14:



**Support early learning services to work together with:**

- **other services**
- **other kinds of work.**



By working together people can share good ideas.



When early learning services work together with schools / kura it makes it easier for the children who are starting school / kura.



The Ministry of Education will keep supporting people in education to work together.

## Action 15:



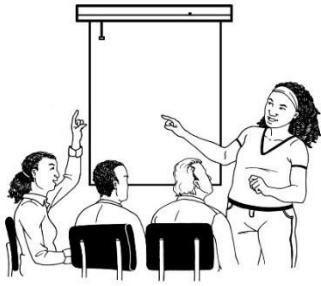
**Support people who work in early learning to make te reo Māori / Māori language part of all early learning services.**

Some of the ways to make this happen are:



- all early learning services must use some:
  - te reo Māori
  - tikanga Māori (Māori culture or ways of doing things)
- support Māori to do well at early learning services.





The government will look again at Professional Learning and Development to make sure:

- it is supporting services where the only language is te reo Māori
- there are more services using te reo Māori.



We will make sure we work closely together with mana whenua / local Māori.



1 way we can support te reo Māori is by making sure that teachers are learning te reo Māori as part of their training.



#### **Objective 4:**

**Children are able to learn things that:**

- **their whānau / community think are important**
- **support them to do well with their learning**
- **support them to feel good about being able to learn.**

## Action 16:

### Gazette the early learning Te Whāriki framework.



**Gazette** means to write down the rules about something.

These rules are printed in the New Zealand Gazette.

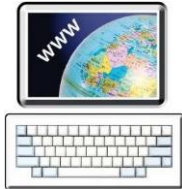
The New Zealand Gazette is the official newspaper of the New Zealand government.

Government departments use these gazettes when they are writing their policies.





**Te Whāriki** is a set of ideas used by early childhood learning centres in New Zealand.



You can find out more about Te Whāriki from the Ministry of Education website:

[www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/te-whariki/](http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/te-whariki/)

## Action 17:

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

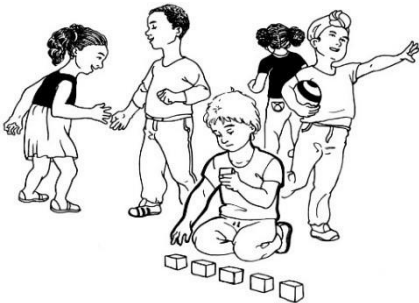
☐ Bad

☒ Not sure



**Work together with others to make new tools that:**

- **look at how well work is going**
- **use the ideas that work well.**



Children learn lots of things when they are playing.



Teachers can support children with their playing so they can keep learning.

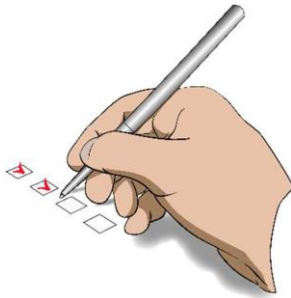


We want teachers who can work well with children from different cultures.

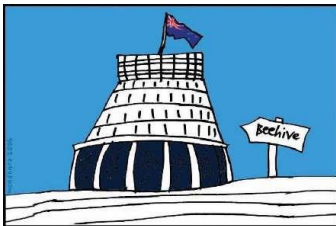


## Action 18:

**Support early learning services to look at how well they are doing.**



The **Education Review Office** has a list of things that shows when an early learning service is a good service.



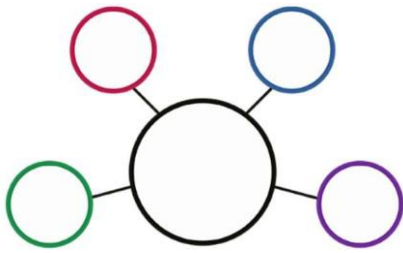
**The Education Review Office** tells the government how well education services are doing.

The **Education Review Office** is also called **ERO**.



Early learning services can use the list from ERO:

- see how well they are doing
- make a plan of how to do things better.

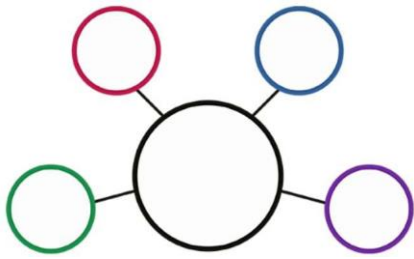


### **Objective 5:**

**Early learning services should be a part of an education system that:**

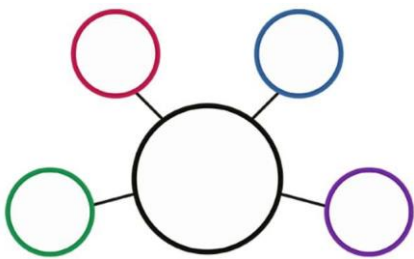
- **is well planned**
- **fits together well**
- **has the support it needs**
- **keeps working well.**

## Action 19:



The Ministry of Education needs to look after the network of early learning services so that early learning:

- are good quality
- works well for different people
- has what it needs to keep working well.



In early learning a **network** is all the different kinds of early learning services working together.

## Action 20:



**Find ways of having early learning services in communities that do not have many at the moment.**



The Ministry of Education will look at ways to make sure children in those communities can get good early learning services.

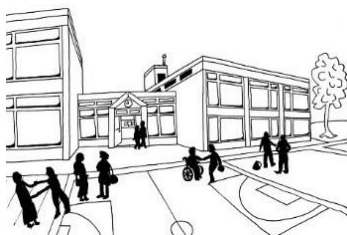


These services need to support their:

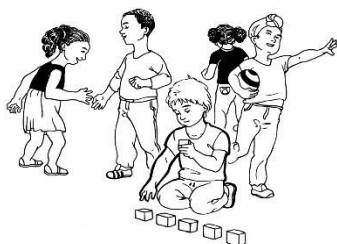
- language
- identity
- culture.



## Action 21:



**Build early learning services where there is room on school land.**



Doing this will support better links between

- children
- whānau
- communities
- schools / kura.



## Action 22:



**We need to have better support for:**

- **Pacific language early learning services**
- **other cultural community early learning services.**



We need early learning services that are a good fit with:

- what the community wants
- culture
- language.



We need to make sure that people get the support they need to get these services started.



## Action 23:



For the Ministry of Education to have better ways of:

- monitoring
- licensing.



**Monitoring** means to look at how well early learning services are doing.



**Licensing** is when we say who can run early learning services.



The Ministry of Education can do something where there are concerns about an early learning service.

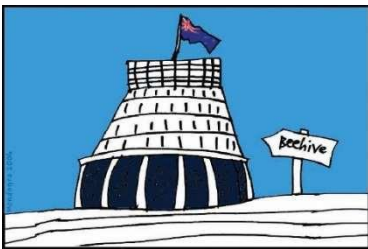


## Action 24:

**We should tell people how much money the government pays for early learning services.**

This information should be available for:

- parents
- teachers
- other parts of government.



This means parents know how the government support their children getting early learning services.



Some early learning services will need to tell the government every year how:

- much money they got that year
- they spent the money.



This will help the Ministry of Education work out which services might run out of money.

## Action 25:



**Work with Playcentre Aotearoa New Zealand to find the best way for them to get money from the government.**



**Playcentre** is an early learning service that is important to many communities around New Zealand.



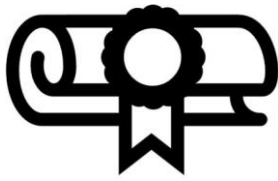
Playcentre thinks of parents as the:

- first people to teach their children
- best people to teach their children.



The Ministry of Education and Playcentre are working together to decide:

- the way Playcentre gets money from the government
- what training people / parents working in Playcentre should have.



# How will we know how well things are going?



We will work together with the Education Review Office to see:

- how things in this plan are going
- what the changes are making things better.



**This information has been translated into Easy Read by the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.**



**The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.**



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