

Finding an ECE Home Centre

What is a home centre?

A home centre is the early learning service you choose to do your weekly practice hours. This can be a paid or unpaid (voluntary) position. It is your responsibility to find a home centre in your local area.

Early learning services are familiar with having student volunteers or as paid employees so will understand this when you approach them.

How to find potential centres

Look on the government database for early learning services in your local area.

Click here → <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/find-an-els>

The screenshot shows the 'Find Early Learning Services' page on the Education Counts website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'KNOW YOUR REGION', 'COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING', 'FIND YOUR NEAREST SCHOOL', 'EARLY LEARNING SERVICES', 'DIRECTORIES', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'INDICATORS', 'STATISTICS', 'TOPICS', and 'DATA SERVICES'. The main search area has dropdown menus for 'Search Service Name', 'All New Zealand regions', 'All types of services', 'Immersion', 'All age groups', 'All New Zealand districts', and 'All languages', along with 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below the search area, there are two sections: 'North Island Regions' and 'South Island Regions'. The 'North Island Regions' section lists: Northland Region, Auckland Region, Waikato Region, Bay of Plenty Region, Gisborne Region, Hawke's Bay Region, Taranaki Region, Manawatu-Wanganui Region, and Wellington Region. The 'South Island Regions' section lists: Tasman Region, Nelson Region, Marlborough Region, West Coast Region, Canterbury Region, Otago Region, and Southland. To the right of these lists is a map of New Zealand with a pin indicating the selected region.

Click on your region either using the map or the boxes to the left.

You can keep selecting options until you get to your specific suburb – then you will see all the services in the area:

The screenshot shows the 'Find Early Learning Services' page with the results for 'Takapuna Central'. The search filters are the same as in the previous screenshot. The 'Early Learning Services in Takapuna Central' section lists: Angels Childcare - Takapuna, Lakeview Private Kindergarten, Lollipops Educare Takapuna, New Sprout In-Home, Takapuna Kindergarten, and Takapuna Playcentre. To the right of these lists is a map of Takapuna, New Zealand, with a pin indicating the selected area.

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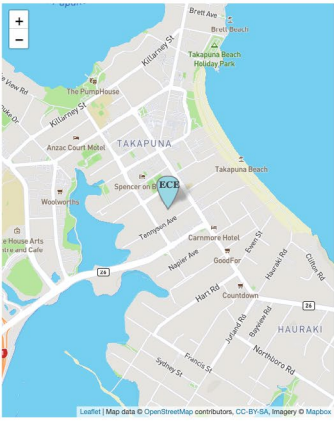
Click on the service you are interested in, and their contact information will be displayed:

Takapuna Kindergarten

Profile and Contact Details

Institution No:	5107
Address:	11 A Tennyson Avenue, Takapuna, Auckland
Phone:	09 489 6189
Email:	takapuna@aka.org.nz
Website:	http://www.aka.org.nz
Service Type:	Kindergarten
Age:	Service provides for 2 year-olds and over only
Offers '20 hours':	Yes
Maximum children:	40
Maximum under 2 yr olds:	No under 2 year olds
Col. Membership:	Pukekohe (Westlake) Community of Learning

[Education Review Office report](#)



You can also search for the ERO report, which is a report provided by the Government on the quality of the early learning service. Search this database for these reports: <https://ero.govt.nz/reviewreports>

How to contact early learning services

We suggest emailing the service you are interested in to introduce yourself and enquire about working or volunteering there. Remember to include the following information:

- Your name
- Your interests/previous experience/skills in early learning education
- When you will arrive in Aotearoa New Zealand and what area you will be living in
- The requirements of your home centre hours (12 hours per week for Bachelor of Teaching ECE or 13 hours over two days for Graduate Diploma of Teaching ECE)
- Confirmation you have applied to or are already enrolled to study with Te Rito Maioha (email akomai@ecnz.ac.nz if you need a record of this)
- You could also suggest connecting with the centre manager face to face or on Zoom for a video chat. This will help to get to know each other and build a relationship with the service.
- In Aotearoa New Zealand you can say 'Kia ora' which means "Hello" in our native language te reo Māori.

You may need to contact a few different services to find the right one for you and one with availability for student teachers.

For further information on this process please contact akomai@ecnz.ac.nz or for international applicants intl@ecnz.ac.nz.