

## **To the Parents and Community of Amanda's Care and Education**

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on

### **Amanda's Care and Education.**

Amanda's home-based care and education is an early childhood service that was established in 1999. The service director, office administrator and four educational team leaders support individual educators throughout Auckland City. These educators provide care and education in their own homes for up to four children from birth to five years of age.

Children demonstrate a sense of wellbeing and belonging with caring and affectionate educators. Educators promote children's learning with activities and equipment that interest the children and are appropriate to their developmental levels. Two Amanda's playgroups provide additional learning experiences for children and opportunities for educator support. Visits into the local community and excursions that include all children using the service further extend children's learning opportunities.

Educators use 'next step' observation sheets to guide their planning for children's learning. They share their observations of children with the educational team leader and identify the next steps for children's learning and development. This process is documented in children's Treasure Books. Amanda's provides an excellent range of good quality resources and equipment to supplement those provided by each educator. Resource and book boxes developed by the educational team leaders are available to extend children's emerging interests.

Educators are selected through a comprehensive accreditation process. Accreditation is renewed annually. Educators are required to study towards level four of the home-based care certificate. Many choose to study beyond this level and several educators have diplomas of teaching in early childhood education. Educators also receive ongoing training and regular workshops through the service and are required to hold a current first aid certificate. Educational team leaders visit educator's homes regularly.

They write a monthly review for each child in consultation with the educator and provide a photo observation. Copies of these are sent to parents. Team leaders also conduct safety checks and ensure that documentation requirements are being met.

Parents surveyed during this review expressed their satisfaction with the service and the good quality care and learning that educators provide for children. Parents value the service because of the home environment it provides and because of the small number of children cared for in each home. The close relationships that children and families develop with the educator are a positive feature of the service.

ERO's methodology for this review was to evaluate the quality of education and care provided by a sample of educators. ERO interviewed educators and observed the programme in action in educators' homes and at an Amanda's playgroup. Educational team leaders and other management personnel were also interviewed. Progress with self review and progress towards meeting qualification requirements and goals is also evaluated. The report identifies areas of good performance and areas for improvement and recommends that management develop a documented system that supports educators to further develop their knowledge about good practices in teaching.

### **Future Action**

ERO is confident that the service is being managed in the interests of the children.

Therefore ERO will review the service again as part of the regular review cycle.

When ERO has reviewed an early childhood service we encourage management to inform their community of any follow up action they plan to take. You should talk to the management if you have any questions about this evaluation, the full ERO report or their future intentions.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the service or see the ERO website,

<http://www.ero.govt.nz>.



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**for Chief Review Officer**