

HISTORY

Playcentre is an internationally recognised Early Childhood organisation unique to Aotearoa New Zealand. It began as a parent co-operative during the 1940s to support families and promote new developments in early childhood education. The New Zealand Playcentre Federation formed as a national organisation in 1948 by providing parent education, equipment and facilities for quality early childhood education. For more than 50 years this voluntary organisation has met the changing needs of families and their communities, and today remains highly actively in New Zealand's early childhood education sector.

NEW ZEALAND PLAYCENTRE FEDERATION MAY 2010

PLAYCENTRE FACT SHEET



FAMILIES GROWING TOGETHER

The real strength of Playcentre is that it acknowledges and supports parents as the first and most important educators of their children. It provides early childhood education for 11,014 whānau/families and 16,087 children between birth and school age. Playcentres are unique within early childhood in that they are co-operatively managed and supervised by parents with support from experienced Association and Federation personnel.

Each of New Zealand's 489 Playcentres is affiliated to the New Zealand Playcentre Federation through one of its 33 regional Associations. Each Playcentre abides by the Constitution of its parent Association and that of the Playcentre Federation. Playcentres are partially funded by the Ministry of Education through Bulk Funding and a Training Grant.

Playcentre families receive a unique early childhood experience with opportunities for whānau/parents and children to learn together.

This is achieved by offering:

- half day sessions for children of mixed age groupings
- a variety of self selected play activities and comprehensive quality equipment
- an accessible, flexible field-based education programme at minimal cost
- parenting skills and confidence in parenting
- skills for working with children and running Playcentre sessions
- increased cultural awareness
- knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- administrative and group facilitation skills

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NZ Playcentre Federation WEB SITE

www.Playcentre.org.nz

PARENT EDUCATION

New Zealand Playcentre Federation Training Statistics - for 2009:

- ◆ 1902 certificates were presented for Playcentre training
- ◆ 3615 parents were newly enrolled in training
- ◆ Playcentre Education is a registered training provider with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority

PUBLICATIONS

Playcentre is a publisher of play, parenting and leadership books. These books meet the needs of its Parent Education Programme. They include:

'Magic Places' by Pennie Brownlee

'Take Another Look' by Pat Penrose

'Work & Play in the Early Years'
by Gwen Somerset

'Working in a Group' by Tess Conran-Liew

'Recipes for Play' by NZ Playcentre Federation

'Imagined Worlds' by Tanya Batt

Playcentre is also a major source of early childhood books written and published in New Zealand. These resources are widely used and respected by the Early Childhood sector in New Zealand and other international early childhood groups.

Playcentre also publishes a regular Journal on current issues and informative articles, and its own Calendar and Diary.

All available from:

Playcentre Publications:

PO Box 15 886 New Lynn

AUCKLAND

ph/fax: 09 827 3469

email: Publications@Playcentre.org.nz

