



ERO Early Childhood Service Akarangi | Quality Evaluation Report

Early Childhood Service Name: City Impact Church Childcare Balclutha

Profile Number: 47636

Location: Balclutha

1 ERO’s judgement of City Impact Church Childcare Balclutha is as follows:

Domains: Ngā Akatoro	Below the threshold for quality		Above the threshold for quality	
	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
The learner and their learning He Whāriki Motuhake	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Collaborative professional learning and development builds knowledge and capability Whakangungu Ngaio	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Leadership fosters collaboration and improvement Kaihautū	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling
Stewardship through effective governance and management Te Whakaruruhau	Improvement required	Working towards	Embedded	Excelling

For an explanation of the judgement terms used and of the evaluation process please refer to the last page of this report. These judgements are based on the evidence provided to ERO during the evaluation.

Children’s health and safety	Improvement required	Taking reasonable steps
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2 ERO's Judgements

[Akarangi | Quality Evaluations](#) evaluate the extent to which early childhood services have the learning and organisational conditions to support equitable and excellent outcomes for all learners. [Te Ara Poutama Indicators of quality for early childhood education: what matters most](#) and [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Improvement Framework \(teacher led services\)](#) are the basis for making judgements about the quality of the service in achieving equity and excellence for all learners. Evaluations for improvement | Ngā Aronga Whai Hua is integrated across all of the above domains.

3 About the Service

City Impact Church Childcare Balclutha is one of a group of four early learning services owned by a charitable trust. A national manager oversees the services. A centre manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations and is supported by the teaching team. The group's philosophy gives emphasis to the special Christian character and community values of 'Believe, Belong, Become and Build'. The group's priorities are 'Know who we are in God, Supporting Transitions, Social and Emotional Competence and Family and Community Engagement'. An additional learning priority for this service is 'Outdoor Exploration'.

4 Progress since the previous ERO report

ERO 2021 Akanuku | Assurance Review identified two key next steps to:

- continue to increase meaningful integration of te ao Māori and te reo Māori into children's day-to-day learning
- ensure all teachers are supported to deepen their understanding and implementation of best practice for assessment, planning, and evaluation of children's learning, including making children's languages and cultures more visible in learning records.

Good progress has been made in relation to both identified key next steps. Leaders and teachers have undertaken an internal evaluation focussed on the bicultural curriculum. This has resulted in teachers' increasing their knowledge and understanding of bicultural teaching practices, which is reflected in children's learning assessments. Leaders and teachers have embedded practices that make children's languages and cultures visible within individual learning records.

5 Learning Conditions

The learner and their learning | He Whāriki Motuhake

Children experience a curriculum that is clearly aligned with *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum, and actively promotes outdoor play alongside the service's Christian character, philosophy, vision and priorities for learning.

- Teachers intentionally use the outdoor learning environment to support children's learning, aligning with the service's priority of outdoor exploration. Children confidently engage with resources in the outdoor environment to challenge and extend their physical skills.
- Learning environments are thoughtfully resourced and well considered. Daily planned aspects of the curriculum promote rich opportunities for early literacy and oral language development.
- Children with additional learning needs are well supported. Teachers collaborate with parents and use intentional resourcing to promote children's social and emotional competence and developing communication skills.
- Te reo Māori and other home languages are used in some interactions, group times, and routines. Teachers who work with children aged under two years are responsive to their non-spoken cues and individual needs.

Collaborative professional learning and development builds knowledge and capability | Whakangungu Ngaio

Organisational conditions effectively support leaders and teachers to access service-wide professional learning and development that is aligned to service priorities.

- Leaders and teachers actively reflect and collaborate to discuss children's learning and development. They share their professional learning across the group of services to build teacher capability and consistency of teaching practices.
- Professional growth processes purposefully guide and improve teaching practices and are clearly aligned to service priorities. Leaders and teachers are highly improvement focussed and regularly consider what is and is not working and for whom.
- Leaders and teachers are currently evaluating the effectiveness of assessment, planning and evaluation processes to improve consistency of practice across the group of services. Assessment information does not yet demonstrate clear links to Te Whāriki learning outcomes, children's learning progress over time, or the effectiveness of intentional teaching strategies in supporting learning.

6 Organisational conditions

Leadership fosters collaboration and improvement | Kaihautū

High levels of relational trust enable effective collaboration to promote improved outcomes from children and whānau.

- Leaders have a strong understanding of the service's Christian philosophy and actively apply it in practice. They role model and promote clear expectations for the teaching teams.
- Highly experienced leaders work closely together to mentor centre managers across the group. Regular opportunities are provided for leaders to meet, engage in service-wide professional learning, and share knowledge that builds teacher capability and consistency across the group.
- A range of tools and methods is used to gather relevant information for evaluation and improvement purposes. Leaders collect meaningful data to identify priorities and actions for improvement and engage in deliberate, evidence-informed decision making.

Stewardship through effective governance and management | Te Whakaruruhau

Governance fosters an environment that reflects the service's Christian values and prioritises children's learning and wellbeing.

- Governance actively promotes the services' Christian philosophy and ensures that parent and whānau aspirations meaningfully influence the organisation's vision, goals, and plans for children's learning. Resourcing is strategically aligned with service's priorities.
- Governance ensures new managers are confident and competent in their roles. Staff are strategically appointed for their skills and expertise to add value across the services and build teacher capability.
- A collaborative systematic approach to internal evaluation is well established across the group and is used to inform change and ongoing improvement in practice.

7 Management Assurance on Legal Requirements

Before the review, the staff and management of City Impact Church Childcare Balclutha completed an *ERO Assurance Statement and Self-Audit Checklist*. In these documents they attested that they have taken all reasonable steps to meet their legal obligations related to:

- curriculum
- premises and facilities
- health and safety practices
- governance, management and administration.

During the review, ERO looked at the service's system for managing the following areas that have a potentially high impact on children's health and safety:

- emotional safety (including positive guidance and child protection)
- physical safety (including supervision; sleep procedures; accidents; medication; excursion policies and procedures)
- suitable staffing (safety checking of staff, ratios)
- relevant evacuation procedures and practices.

All early childhood services are required to promote children’s health and safety and to regularly review their compliance with legal requirements.

8 Where to next for improvement?

City Impact Church Childcare Balclutha will include the following actions in its quality improvement planning:

- Refine assessment practices so documentation more clearly shows children’s learning progress over time in relation to *Te Whāriki* learning outcomes and the service’s priorities for learning, including evaluation of the effectiveness of intentional teaching strategies and how teachers respond to children’s languages and cultures.

Activities undertaken by the evaluation team

- Pre-visit contact with the service provider/manager.
- Reading documentation and records of children’s learning and development.
- Scanning the learning environment and resources.
- Observations of interactions and teaching practice while onsite.
- Meetings and / or conversations with leaders and teachers.
- Sampling of information related to compliance.

[Further information about how ERO evaluates early childhood services is available here.](#)



Vivien Ruth
Director of Early Childhood Education

15 December 2025

9 Information About the Service

Service Type	Education and care service
Number licenced for	70 children, including up to 20 aged under 2
Percentage of qualified teachers	80-99%
Ethnic composition <i>Using rounded percentages</i>	Māori 23%, NZ European/Pākehā 64%, Samoan 9%, Samoan, Cook Island 3%, Cook Island, 3% Tokelauan 1%
Service roll	62
Review team on site	August 2025
Date of this report	15 December 2025
Most recent ERO report (s) These are available at www.ero.govt.nz	Akanuku Assurance Review, June 2021.

Description around ERO's judgement terms

ERO's judgements are based on *Te Ara Poutama* and the *Early Childhood Education Improvement Framework (teacher led services)*.

	Above the threshold for quality
Excelling	The service is excelling in the learning and organisational conditions to support high quality education and care for children.
Embedded	The service has embedded its learning and organisational conditions to support ongoing improvement to the quality of education and care for children.
	Below the threshold for quality
Working towards	The service is working towards establishing the learning and organisational conditions to support improvements in the quality of education and care for children.
Improvement required	The service has not yet developed the learning and organisational conditions to support quality education and care for children.