

How do I become an Educator?

To all those parents and grandparents who wish to be involved in the care and education of young children.

Have you ever wished you could stay at home to meet the needs of your children AND have a rewarding career as well?

While you're watching your toddler playing the paddling pool and enjoying her discoveries or cheering your child on at the athletic school sports day you are occupied in the most important job in society ... the care and education of young children. It's probably the most challenging job there is, but it is also the most rewarding. Your warm and caring responses, your guidance and concern are some of the skills and qualities you bring to your job without even thinking because it is a part of who you are and what you do.

We have a demand in your area for Parents and Grandparents with just these special qualities to care for the young children of working, studying or stay at home Mums and Dads who choose to have time out. Sprouts can offer you the opportunity to care for up to four children (including your own) in your home and will pay you \$4.50 starting rate (no prior training) an hour for each care child. You choose how many children you wish to care for and the hours you wish to work.

Parents who choose to place their children in Homebased childcare want all the things a home setting can offer their child as an alternative option to a daycare centre. This means they would like you to include their child in all the activities, outings, events and play opportunities that you provide for your own children.

Enclosed in this pack is an educator profile form to help us to know you a little better before we meet you. We then send this profile to prospective parents when you become a contracted educator.

The benefits to parents is that they will already know what to expect before they meet you and it will give them some conversation and perhaps some questions to you at the interview. The advantage to you is that you can sell yourself in your own words before you meet the parents and can include in your profile whatever you wish.

Please talk to us about how to write and present your profile, or if you would like some ideas and examples. We are here to help and support you.

Most parents are enthusiastic about their child attending a local playgroup or Playcentre session each week as well as informal visits to friends and the park as part of their days in care.

Most parents choose to enrol their children in kindergarten and ask their carer to drop them off at kindergarten and pick them up. This gives their child the best of both worlds. The warm personal care of an experienced Mum in a relaxed home environment and the opportunities for centre activities and the socialising they can get from a kindergarten.

You get to plan your care programme based entirely around the needs of your own family first. You can provide children whose parents work or study to feel part of a family instead of the noise and stimulation that can often overwhelm children who are cared for in a large centre setting. The rewards for you are the relationships you form, the childcare skills you develop (which could lead to training and qualifications if you so choose) as well as a welcome boost to the family finances.

If you would like to meet with one of our Co-ordinators to discuss becoming a carer for a professional, supportive and Ministry of Education approved early childhood service, we would welcome meeting with you in your home at a convenient time to you.

Please complete the two forms at the back of this pack and post them back to us in the envelope provided. We will then phone you and make an appointment to visit you in your home.

These include:

1. Your personal profile and referees
2. Your Educator application.