

What are the benefits of Homebased Childcare?

Sprouts allows all its parents to:

- Choose** their own educator from a selection we provide.
- Choose** an educator close to their own home or work
- Choose** an educator they are happy to leave their child/ren with.
- Choose** the hours they need to have their children cared for.
- Choose** to view and make recommendations relating to regular audit reports about educators, co-ordinators and Sprouts.
- Choose** to apply for a WINZ subsidy.
- Choose** to have their children minded whether the parent works, studies or stays at home.

Parents returning to work or study

If you as a parent intend to go back to work or study in a few months you will find it is a good idea to start your children in childcare for one day a week to get them used to it. Then when it is time for you to increase your work or study hours your children will easily cope with the transition.

Your children

You as a parent can be assured that your children will feel safe, secure and comfortable in a supervised environment. You will know that your children's educator will be alert to the health and welfare of your child/ren and responsive to your children's needs and interests.

You will be impressed by the high standard of cleanliness at the homes and children are instructed in health and hygiene as part of the education programme.

Our co-ordinators who supervise our educators regularly conduct random visits to the educator's home.

Education Programme

Under the guidance and support of their Coordinator, who is an experienced early childhood teacher, our educators use the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum – Te Whariki, to plan individual educational programmes for the children in their care.

Te Whariki, founded on the following aspirations for children: to grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind and body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society.

Te Whariki – The Infant
Te Whariki – The Toddler
Te Whariki – The Child

The special characteristics of Sprouts In-home Childcare Educational Programmes

1. Your child learns alongside other children of mixed ages.
2. The small group size (max 4, including the educator's own pre-school age children) means an individual learning programme can be designed to build on your child's interests, strengths and needs as determined by you, your educator and your co-ordinator.
3. Your child is given opportunities to play and learn in centre based programmes such as enrolment in kindergarten, Playcentre, kindy gym, mainly music and playgroup, all is an encouraged and integrated part of Homebased care
4. A written report about your infant and toddler's daily activities, sleep times and food eaten is kept in a home notebook.
5. Each child has their own journal, in which educator's record children's interests and strengths, contribute photographs taken while in care and samples of artworks.
6. If your child has special needs Sprouts works alongside specialist community services to achieve the best outcomes for him / her.
7. Regular visits into the community are important everyday learning opportunities for your child. These can include supermarket shopping, visits to other homes, walks to the park, primary school events, library visits and local neighbourhood developments such as building and road construction.
8. Regular educational excursions are planned to places such as the fire station, farm, the zoo, interactive science exhibitions and the postal centre.
9. Your child has opportunities for quiet and active play, individual and group play and indoor and outdoor play, all within a flexible, broad-based programme. This programme fosters exploration and discovery and meets health and wellbeing needs such as adequate undisturbed rest, warmth and cuddles and self care and hygiene.
10. If you are making a choice about childcare in a home or in a centre, Sprouts offers the "best of both worlds".
11. Personal, informal care within a small group family setting and enrolment in regular centre programmes of your choice, in the community you live in.