

Barnardos Early Learning – Being a home based educator

Commonly asked Questions and Answers



Barnardos Aotearoa is a not-for-profit organisation committed to doing more for New Zealand tamariki and their whānau. Barnardos Aotearoa has been providing services for tamariki for over 50 years. Barnardos Early Learning is a leading expert in creating strong foundations for tamariki aged 0-6, by providing tamariki with either home or centre based early learning services. Barnardos Early Learning will provide different learning environments to meet the changing needs of your whānau.

What is the job of a home based educator?

A Home Based Educator is someone who cares for one to four children in their own home (including their own). They provide a nurturing learning environment that strengthens individual children's curiosity.

What does it take to become a home based educator?

To become a home based educator with Barnardos Early Learning, you will have:

- a home and environment that meets health and safety requirements
- a desire to inspire young children to learn through daily activities
- a passion to nurture and care for the children in your service
- a commitment to creating a positive difference in a young families life
- a willingness to stay connected with parents and the community

Am I employed by Barnardos Early Learning?

You will be supported to run your own business as a contractor, under the brand of Barnardos Early Learning.

Does it cost me to join as an educator?

There is no joining fee.

How do I apply to become an educator?

Applying is simple. Go on to our website, and apply online here:

<https://barnardosearlylearning.org.nz/careers/hb-educator-form/>

Or

Call our 0800 number to get in touch with one of our Community Coordinators, who will be able to answer your questions. When we receive your application, we will be in contact with you to discuss.

What support do I receive from Barnardos Early Learning?

We support our educators to learn and succeed by providing free:

- health and safety training
- regular visits and on tap phone support from a qualified early childhood teacher
- educational induction and training, including Level 4 Certificate in Early Learning
- ongoing professional development through annual conferences
- educational resources and equipment for your home
- access to playgroups and/or community excursions
- access to Storypark and other online tools

Do I need a formal qualification?

Once you have joined, Barnardos Early Learning will pay and support you to complete the NZQA Level 4 ECE qualification. This is a requirement from the Ministry of Education and you can have children in your home whilst you work towards this.

What type of training do you provide?

We will take you through our structured induction course, which includes health and safety requirements and everything you will need to know to have children in your home, and start your service.

Do I need a first aid certificate?

All home based educators need to hold a current first aid certificate. If you do not have one Barnardos Early Learning will pay for you to complete this.

How many children can I have in my care?

The maximum number of children you can have in your care at one time is four, with a maximum of two under 2-years-olds. If you have your own tamariki under the age of 6 years at home (not enrolled in school), they will be included in this number.

What are my potential earnings?

You can earn as much as you want to as you get to set the hourly rate. Barnardos will be able to provide you with a guide or what is charged locally.

- Parent fees: from \$7.50 per hour per child*,
- Ministry of Education funding \$6 per hour (20 hours) for tamariki over 3 years old**

*The starting fee will vary from educator and depends on a range of factors.

**MOE conditions apply.

Do I pay tax?

You will manage your own payment for tax, however the good news is that there is a tax break and you do not pay tax on the first \$4.45 per hour*.

Barnardos Early Learning will give you an annual statement of earnings, and will support you to complete the appropriate forms.

*this is the rate as of 2024 however it changes yearly.

How many hours do I need to work?

We advise all our home based educators to work at least 20 hours per week. You get to choose your own hours and work with your own families to find what suits you and your lifestyle best.

How do I get paid?

Either you can use Barnardos Early Learning's free online tool 'Ezypay' which invoices your parents and a direct credit is paid to you weekly, or you can arrange to get paid directly from your parents.

Do I need to be police vetted or have reference checks?

Home based educators fall under the [Children's Act 2014](#), therefore you and members of your home require police vetting.



Does Barnardos Early Learning provide any start up resources or payments?

As you work through your induction, we will provide you with any child equipment you might need to get you started.

Does an educator follow a curriculum like Early learning Centres, and do I get to plan my day?

All home based educators follow New Zealand's Early Childhood Curriculum - Te Whāriki . Your Visiting Teacher will support you as you learn to learn how to plan out your days and record children's learning.

Do I have to stay at home with the children all the time or can we go out into the local community?

Excursions, connections with the community, and local outings are an important aspect of home based service. You work with your Visiting Teacher to plan local excursions like visits to the library, to music classes, or anything else that might be relevant in your area.

How do I get children?

Our Community Coordinators will support you to market your service through digital and social media campaigns and local marketing activity.

What office equipment do I need to run my business?

You will need a computer, access to a printer, phone, and access to the internet. This will be to print off any forms and resources for your families and children.

Is there paper work involved?

Barnardos Early Learning is required to meet the Ministry of Education regulations. As such, there are forms and records that need to be completed on an ongoing basis and your Visiting Teacher will support you with this.

Am I required to share the child's learning with their family?

We use Story Park and profile books to document learning and share the children's experiences throughout the day with their family. Whānau can also contribute online to these stories.