

Office of Early Childhood Education
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Kia ora koutou,

The Office of Early Childhood Education (OECE) supports regulation for 80% ECE qualified and certificated teachers in teacher-led centres including hospital-based.

The OECE does not support primary school trained teachers to be counted as holding an appropriate qualification for teaching in early childhood education licensed services.

It would be a significant backward step and irresponsible of the Ministry of Education and Government to decide to recognise non-ECE trained teachers as appropriately qualified to provide quality care and learning for infants, toddlers, and young children in licensed ECE services.

Furthermore, the 'Person Responsible' role must not be permitted to continue to be held by persons who have not completed a course of training in ECE leading to a recognised qualification in ECE teaching.

It is essential if teachers are to be freed to focus on teaching that the 'Person Responsible' is ECE trained and qualified. ECE qualified/certificated teachers who are experienced teachers can help with lifting pedagogy and improving child outcomes. But persons not ECE qualified in the role of 'Person Responsible' create a burden on other teachers, and potentially reduce the quality of ECE and the learning and safety outcomes for infants, toddlers, and young children.

The OECE is disappointed that an option to regulate for 80% qualified and certificated ECE teachers was not included as part of consultation on regulating for 80% qualified teachers and strengthening the person responsible requirement in teacher-led centres and hospital-based services.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Dr Sarah Alexander
Chief Advisor