

# Supporting early learning representation

## in Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES ME NGĀ KŌHANGA REO (SERVICES) ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF A CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY, AND CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING | KĀHUI AKO.

The knowledge and understanding services have of how children learn and develop can support Kāhui Ako to better meet the needs of children transitioning to school and influence positive education outcomes from an earlier age.

When services work closely with schools and other services in a Community of Learning, whānau can be confident their children are getting the best start to their education. This lays foundations for lifelong learning and enables a smoother transition to school.

Ministry of Education staff can support Kāhui Ako and services to discuss the benefits of joining Kāhui Ako. Knowing which Kāhui Ako or service should be talking to each other is an important part of this process.

Ministry of Education advisors can talk with services about options for joining existing or yet-to-be approved Communities of Learning. They can also guide Kāhui Ako in connecting with services that best fit their learning pathway and provide data to show where children are going to and have come from.



Services wanting to join a Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako should contact their Education Advisor.

### Why is early learning representation in Communities of Learning important?

Services form an essential part of the 0-18 pathway. When services and schools understand each other's teaching practices and share expertise and resources, overall teaching quality improves, leading to better outcomes for children at every stage of their education journey.

Te Whāriki is a recognised and respected early learning curriculum. Making links between Te Whāriki and the National Curriculum will help build shared understanding of what is valued learning, what progress could look like and how Kāhui Ako can design a local curriculum with parents and whānau to meet the needs of their children.

### What is the process for services to join a Community of Learning?

Services interested in joining an existing or yet-to-be approved Kāhui Ako, should talk to an Education Advisor first about their options. The Ministry provides guidance to Kāhui Ako about connecting with services that best fit their learning pathway, based on data about where children are going to and have come from.

Because there are more services than schools/kura, services may choose to be represented by an agreed nominee. This is likely to depend on the number of local services, the size of the Community of Learning and discussions with local Ministry staff. Services wanting to join a Kāhui Ako should contact their Education Advisor or ring 0800 IES INFO (0800 437 4636) for any further questions or information.

### How can services contribute to achievement challenges?

Achievement challenges are based on collective achievement data from the schools and kura in a Kāhui Ako. Services can contribute to the development of these challenges and support plans to reach them. These plans will evolve over time as each Kāhui Ako develops.

### What other support is available for services' involvement in Kāhui Ako?

Early learning teachers, educators and kaiako in a Kāhui Ako can access Professional Learning and Development (PLD) to help build individual and collective capability to meet achievement challenges across the Kāhui Ako.

Services can talk to their Education Advisor about Strengthening Early Learning Opportunities (SELO). SELO may be used to support early learning clusters in a Community of Learning area to talk about joining a Kāhui Ako, with the goal of becoming 'Kāhui Ako' ready

All qualified early learning teachers and kaiako holding Tohu Whakapakari can now apply directly to the Teacher-led Innovation Fund. This fund supports groups of teachers to collaboratively develop innovative practices that improve learning outcomes. It is not a requirement for an early learning service to be part of a Kāhui Ako to apply. Round 3 closed on 13 April 2017. The next round will open in November 2017.

For more information on the Teacher-led Innovation Fund see: <https://education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/investing-in-educational-success/teacher-led-innovation-fund/>