

Mixing it up: Evaluating Outcomes in multiple realities and contexts

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ERO's National evaluation reports

- Multiple purposes – policy advice, transform practice and self review, report findings and successful practices
- Multiple audiences – education sector, Ministry of Education, parents & whānau
- Topics for national evaluations are decided by ERO in consultation with the Minister, the Ministry of Education and other government agencies.

Purpose of evaluation

- National picture of how effectively early child services are determining, enacting and reviewing their curriculum, and what is known about successful outcomes for children
- Encourage self-reflection and review
- Opportunities for services to discuss, share and reflect on their thinking about what they prioritise and emphasise in their curriculum

Drivers of Evaluation

- review of *Te Whāriki* as recommended by ECE Taskforce
- Inform new policy directions
- Increase focus on outcomes for children
- Previous national evaluations and building capability

Complexity

- Multiple drivers for one evaluation
- National evaluation – gathering data as part of an normal education review
- Context of the service

Evaluation framework

1. How are this service's curriculum priorities and emphases for children's learning determined?
2. To what extent are this service's curriculum priorities and emphases for children's learning enacted?
3. How effectively is this service determining and enacting its curriculum to support children's learning?

Recognising diversity

- Challenges presented by the diversity in the early childhood sector
 - Diversity of philosophy and service type
 - Diversity of practice
 - Diversity of priorities and emphases/ desired outcomes
 - Diversity in capability to undertake self review
 - What's best practice?

Opportunities

- What learning is valued and why?
- Decisions about curriculum design
- What outcomes (curriculum priorities and emphases) are valued?
- Foster professional interest in thinking more about outcomes for children
- Preparation for increased emphasis on outcomes

Building sector capability

- Opportunities
 - Focus thinking on outcomes for children
 - Focus self review on what services say they value
 - Transformation
- Challenges
 - Inability to express their curriculum priorities and emphases

So what?

- Evaluation presents opportunities to:
 - Inform the Ministry of Education of curriculum design and the influence of *Te Whāriki*
 - Engage the sector in thinking about outcomes for children