



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

A list of ECE centres that open before 7 am and/or close after 6 pm.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please find the information you have requested attached to this letter as **Appendix A**.

Last year more than 200,000 children attended New Zealand's 5,527 early learning services (including ngā kohanga reo and playgroups). All early learning service providers operate independently of the Ministry, either as commercial businesses or one of various types of not-for-profit organisations. Within the bounds of the Education Act, which states that early learning services cannot operate for more than seven days consecutively, early learning services are able to choose their operating hours. The hours of operation will be influenced by a variety of different operating structures, philosophies and affiliations, financial and community needs.

It is worth recognising that many parents no longer work 8 to 5, five days per week. While some early learning services are responding to parental needs, just because a service is open for 12 hours, does not necessarily mean that children are attending for this length of time. Each year we survey early learning services on average weekly attendance. For centre-based services, the average weekly attendance in 2019 was 23.3 hours. This level of attendance is consistent with the Government ECE subsidy per child, of up to six hours per day, to a maximum of 30 hours per week. Recent intensity analysis supports the view that most children are not attending early learning services for excessive hours.

Further information is available at

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/early-childhood-education/participation>
<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf/file/0003/195816/ECE-PIM-Results-Summary-June-2019.pdf>

The information provided in **Appendix A** shows:

- 7 services which are licensed to start operating before 7am and finish operating after 6pm.
- 45 services that are licensed to start operating before 7am.
- 39 services that are licensed to operate after 6pm.
- 4 services that operate at varying times, but at times they operate after 6pm.

This information does not include home-based services.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written over a horizontal line.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support