

Early Childhood Centres in a Residential Area

Definition – Early childhood centre: premises used for the care, education or welfare of four or more children under the age of seven, including but not limited to Kindergartens, Playcentres, Kohanga Reo, Licensed Childcare Centres, Day Nurseries and Crèches.

When applying for resource consent for an early childhood centre in residential areas, the following information is required:

- Plans to show that the proposed building (and any existing buildings/structures on site), outdoor play areas, any proposed landscaping and earthworks (where relevant) to comply with all the permitted activity rules for the area.
- Provide an Acoustic Report to show that the proposal complies with the below requirements.

Noise emission levels resulting from noise associated with power generation, heating, ventilation or air conditioning systems, or water or sewage pumping/treatment systems or other similar domestic installations when measured at or within the boundary of any site, other than the site from which the noise is generated, in the Residential Area shall not exceed the following limits:

Inner Residential Area:

Monday to Saturday 7am to 10pm	50dBA (L10) (or 55dBA (L10) measured on site)
At all other times	40dBA (L10) (or 50dBA (L10) measured on site)
All days 10pm to 7am	65dBA (Lmax) (or 70 dBA (Lmax) measured on site)

Outer Residential Area:

Monday to Saturday 7am to 10pm	45dBA (L10)
At all other times	40dBA (L10)
All days 10pm to 7am	65dBA (Lmax)

Where it is impractical to measure outside a dwelling, then measurements shall be made inside (with windows closed). Where indoor measurements are made the noise limits stated above shall be reduced by 15dBA.

Any activity occurring within the Residential Area when measured from any other area listed in Appendix 1 must comply with the stated noise limits.

Note: While the noise rules of the District Plan may not apply to the proposal, section 16 of the Resource Management Act 1991 may still be applicable to the proposal. The applicant would be advised to obtain advice from a qualified noise consultant to ensure that their proposal would not create unreasonable noise.

- Provide plans to show one off-street car parking for each full-time (or equivalent) staff member. Vehicle parking and site access should comply with Appendix 2 & 3 of the residential rules. If there is insufficient off-street car parking, please provide a traffic assessment for car parking requirements.
- Include the number of children and staff, and the hours of operation. If after-hour use, what are these hours and what is the activity?

The Ministry of Education have their own requirements and standards for early childhood centres. Although these are not related to the resource consent process, please make sure you are aware of and have considered their requirements when applying for a resource consent.

If you have any queries relating to resource consents, please contact a Customer Service Planning Technician on 801 3590 or email: planning@wcc.govt.nz