

Preschool Residential Courses at Ko Taku Reo - Deaf Education New Zealand



Ko Taku Reo - Deaf Education is New Zealand's provider of education services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children. We have a large team of over 300 specialist staff across New Zealand with specialist school provisions in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

With both Deaf and hearing staff, we aspire to be a tri-lingual, tri-cultural organisation. New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) and English are used on a communication continuum throughout, from administration to the classroom.

We also reflect the importance of Māori culture and Te Reo Māori by being culturally responsive, celebrating diversity and respecting the preferred learning styles and needs of all our students.

Our journey with families begins at pre-school age and goes until the child finishes school, which can be anywhere up to age 21. Ultimately, we are here to help people understand their different options with regards to the different places and ways a child can learn, and we continue to support whatever choices are made along the way. And they are real choices; we are an impartial organisation because we firmly believe every child learns differently and will have their own individual needs.

Course contacts:

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Preschool Residential Courses

Who are we and what is a Preschool Residential Course?

Ko Taku Reo - Deaf Education New Zealand offers onsite three-day Preschool Residential Courses (PRCs) in Christchurch and Auckland that provide a tailored assessment and guidance programme for children and their whānau. We offer support in a variety of areas, including Deaf role models, NZSL/visual communication, Deaf culture, speech and language assessment, early literacy, parent-to-parent support, social support and guidance, audiology, and resource ideas.

PRC philosophy statement

The foundation of the PRC philosophy is whānau-centred learning. We recognise that early involvement is a vital foundation for future success. PRC empowers whānau under the articles of Te Tiriti and supports a journey of inclusion, knowledge, belonging, and unity within the Deaf community.

Through our commitment to early childhood education, relationship building, and holistic development, PRC creates opportunities for children to reach their full potential. We value diversity and strive to create an environment where every child and whānau feels accepted and appreciated.

At the heart of the PRC's purpose is cultivating solid relationships and building trust. We value open communication and collaboration between parents and the wider specialist team (such as Advisors of Deaf Children, Early Intervention Services, and Cochlear Implant Services).

We have a holistic view of children's development, acknowledging their many needs through providing a rich and stimulating three-day course encompassing various learning areas. We share knowledge and resources with parents/caregivers, empowering them to play an active role in their child's education and wellbeing. By understanding that each child is unique, we embrace flexibility and responsiveness in meeting the diverse needs of children and their whānau, ensuring they receive personalised attention and experience meaningful growth.

We are committed to providing unbiased and impartial support to children and whānau. We treat everyone with respect, fairness and impartiality, regardless of their background or circumstances. By creating a non-discriminatory environment, the PRC fosters a sense of equality and acceptance among all whānau.

Description and delivery models

Whānau and family connection points	One plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advisors of Deaf Children (AoDC) / Resource Teachers of the Deaf (RTD) ▪ Inreach co-ordinator ▪ PRC co-ordinator ▪ Pre-visit communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identified goals with the wider team around the child ▪ Whānau Support Plan shared with RTD / AoDC / First Signs / Preschool / Residential team ▪ Planning and progress is shared with families and team members
Working together	More flexibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive practices are always used with the wider team ▪ Whānau voice is recorded and prioritised through initial communications and aspiration meeting and guides the focus of the PRC ▪ Active engagement with all team members, working with the child and whānau to support positive outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings and activities prior and during are planned to ensure maximum family involvement ▪ Innovative and solution-focused culture, prioritising child and whānau outcomes ▪ Follow-up based on outcomes/goals
Better facilitation	Sharing data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During each course the coordinator ensures team members focus on the same priorities resulting in the best outcome for the child and their whānau ▪ The team facilitate assessment opportunities to meet the current needs ▪ Key checkpoints during the course (daily) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raw assessment data shared with the AoDC, Cochlear Implant Programme and audiologist ▪ Whānau focused end of course report summarising key ideas and next steps ▪ Experience book that captures learning during the PRC ▪ Activity resources and ideas

Timetable

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Morning			
	<p>Mihi whakatau welcome</p> <p>1:1 Individual family meeting with the team to discuss your goals and aspirations</p>	<p>Individual family sessions (around 45 min each) with specialist team members</p> <p>May include time in the Early Years Whānau Centre or Preschool Programme</p>	<p>Individual family sessions (around 45 min each) with specialist team members</p> <p>May include time in the Early Whānau Centre or Preschool Programme</p>
Afternoon			
<p>Up to three families arrive at Ko Taku Reo and settle into accommodation</p> <p>NB: Travel arrangements are booked through Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand</p>	<p>Individual family sessions (around 45 min each) with specialist team members</p>	<p>Individual family sessions (around 45 min each) with specialist team members</p>	<p>Farewell and evaluations</p> <p>Travel home</p>

Outcomes for Whānau – what we want for you

During PRC, whānau will:

Connection

- Establish connections with the PRC team, other whānau, and their Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, creating a network of support and shared experiences.
- Have a positive experience and feel a sense of trust, identity and support, knowing that their goals for their child are being addressed and supported.
- Feel safe and encouraged to ask questions, seeking clarification and understanding without judgment or hesitation, as they know their child best for supporting their child's growth and development.

Advocacy

- Gain knowledge and confidence in advocating for their child's needs, ensuring they can access the necessary resources and support for continued growth beyond PRC.
- Feel more confident in self-advocacy, advocating for their child's needs and rights in various settings and situations.

Language

- Gain an understanding of the importance of language learning and different opportunities for developing their child's language skills will be gained.

- Become more open to the possibility of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) enriching their lives and the life of their Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) child, recognising its value as a vibrant language and cultural expression.

Strengths

- Through identification and celebration of the whānau and the child's existing strengths, every whānau will be empowered to celebrate and feel confident in the capabilities and potential of their DHH child.
- Leave the course with increased optimism about their child's future, embracing a positive 'Deaf can' mindset while understanding their child's unique needs and preferences.

Technology

- Learn about the many different technologies that can support and enhance their child's learning.
- Understand the potentials and limitations / challenges of hearing devices and assistive technology, which will help set realistic expectations and provide an opportunity to explore alternative strategies to encourage effective communication.



Angela Wightman
Kiwi Care
New Zealand

Outcomes for Tamariki – what we want for your children

During PRC, children will:

Connection

- Have opportunities to connect with other deaf children, fostering a sense of belonging, understanding, shared experiences and building life-long friendships.
- Be welcomed within Māori spaces by including a mihi whakatau (Māori traditional welcome), promoting cultural connections and understanding.
- Thrive in a barrier-free environment that accommodates their communication needs and supports their development, while having opportunities to create positive memories and a keen sense of pride in their Deaf identity.
- Have role models to aspire to after meeting Deaf role models and older deaf students, positively impacting them to set goals and envision a bright future.
- Feel safe and encouraged to ask questions, creating curious mindsets, which allows numerous ways of expressing themselves and communicating with others, enhancing their social and emotional wellbeing.
- Be reassured that they are not alone, understanding that others share similar experiences and challenges and that their communication needs and experiences are valued.

Language

- Have exposure to a rich and diverse language experience that strengthens language development. This enables effective communication and expression while forming a sense of belonging within the Deaf community and broader society.
- Be exposed to basic skills to effectively communicate their needs and feelings. This empowers them to express themselves and be understood by their parents, their whānau, and their community.

Advocacy

- Benefit from informed and empowered parents/caregivers to comfortably connect with them, valuing and supporting their communication, educational, and emotional needs.

Strengths

- Have access to visual resources that support their learning, engagement and understanding, catering to their strengths to have fun and foster bonding within their whānau.

Technology

- Have access to audiology services and gain a sense of acceptance using their devices and have access to sound.

Service eligibility and access

Any DHH preschool aged child (0-school age) can access Preschool Residential Courses in Christchurch or Auckland. Preschoolers are able to attend two PRCs before they transition to school. Whānau can self-refer or can be referred through AoDC (Ministry of Education), Cochlear Implant services, Teachers of the Deaf, First Signs Deaf Aotearoa, early childhood services or early intervention services.

Application forms for our Preschool Residential Courses can be found on our website:

www.kotakureo.school.nz/parents-and-whanau/education/early-childhood/preschool-residential-courses

or scan the QR code below:

Scan to view
application form



kotakureo.school.nz