

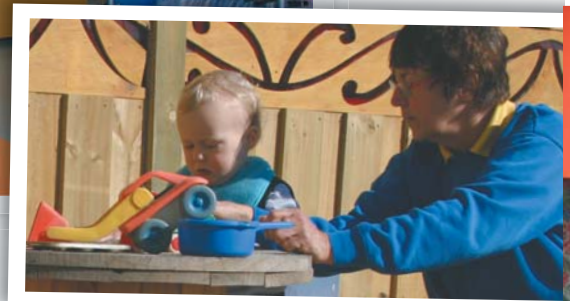
Te Akonga Early Learning Centre loving their new home

Children and teachers at Te Akonga Early Learning Centre in Pukekohe are thoroughly enjoying their new building in Franklin Road, after the long quest to find a new home.

The centre is divided into two sections, Koru Room for children 3-5 and Pitau (named after the tender, tiny shoots at the centre of a fern frond) for babies from birth to 3 years.

“It’s lovely, and just fabulous to be here after five years looking for a new site,” says manager Robyn Moloney. “Once we found the right place, it took so long to find the funding and a lot of fundraising, but we finally got there! We have more than twice the space we had at the old place, with big outdoor play areas and lots of room for children to ride bikes. There are sleeping and changing rooms and rooms for one-on-one teaching sessions for children with special needs. The council was so helpful, providing the land at a nominal lease and a community partnership loan, while Pukekohe Rugby Club allows us to use their carpark.”

The new centre has 40 children on the roll, 12 of them children with special needs.



Paul Hutchison
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