



Education in Schools

Education in Schools Volunteer Parent Guide 2020

**This guide is intended to assist those who volunteer to support
Plunket within the Education in Schools programme**

General Plunket Information

Plunket (Whānau āwhina) is the largest provider of free support services for the development, health and wellbeing of children under five in New Zealand.

We see more than 90% of new-borns in New Zealand each year.

Plunket offers parenting information and support as well as developmental assessments of children.

Our nurses provide support through home and clinic visits, mobile clinics and PlunketLine, a free telephone advice service for parents.

Plunket also organises parent groups, parenting education and toy libraries, drop in centres, playgroups and education in schools – most of which are available nationwide and free of charge.

Plunket was founded in 1907 in Dunedin by child health visionary, Sir Frederic Truby King. By May 1908, a branch of the new society had been formed in each of the four main centres. The work succeeded in attracting the patronage of the influential Victoria Plunket - wife of then Governor-General and mother of eight. The society took the name 'Plunket', after Lady Plunket.

In 2018 Plunket moved from a society with 18 area boards to Plunket Trust.

The Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust is a not for profit organisation incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

Plunket Vision Statement

In the first 1000 days we make the difference of a lifetime

Underpinned by three overarching goals

Healthy tamariki – We make sure every child/tamariki has the opportunity to be as healthy and well as they can be.

Confident whānau – We build the confidence and knowledge of whānau and families across New Zealand.

Connected communities – We make sure no family/whānau is left isolated, disconnected or unable to cope.

Plunket's Values are:

Trust / Te Aroha

Our underlying value because it is both an input and an outcome; it influences how well people work together, and it is self-reinforcing so that the more trust is used and honoured, the stronger it becomes.

Quality of Service / Te Ūnga

The value that orients what we do towards achieving excellence in pursuit of the Plunket vision.

Inclusiveness / Te Mahinga tahi

The value that unites all stakeholders through the recognition of our shared commitment to the Plunket vision.

Commitment / Te Tautukunga

The value that describes the spirit of service that people bring to the Plunket vision.

Our Guiding Principles

The following principles underpin the Plunket Well Child/Tamariki Ora and Family/Whānau Programme.

Treaty of Waitangi

We're committed to the principles of partnership, protection and participation inherent in the Treaty.

Health promotion

We're committed to health promotion, providing services according to principles implicit in the Ottawa Charter.

Cultural safety

We're committed to providing a culturally safe range of services.

Integration

We recognise the importance of integrating our service with other services to achieve optimal health outcomes for both the children and their whānau/family.

Best practice

We're committed to using standard guidelines founded on evidence-based best practice.

Socio-ecological perspective

We're committed to working from a socio-ecological perspective.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

We're committed to compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Supported by our Māori Principles

Mana Atua – Mana Atua is the most important foundation pillar, enabling Māori to re-connect to the source of creation, based on their realities as tangata whenua. The disconnection of tangata whenua from their Mana Atua (resulting in a state of Wairua Matangaro) is a source of 'haumate' (unwellness).

Mana Tūpuna – Acknowledging the ancestral dimension, a person's connection to their ancestry through whakapapa (genealogy).

Mana Whenua – Mana Whenua recognises the physical, spiritual and emotional connection to the land. This includes forests, swamps, pa sites, rivers and other geographical entities, elements each in their own right able to define a person's Tūrangawaewae (place of identity).

Mana Tangata – Acknowledges the realities of whānau, hapū, iwi, marae, waka, from whom tangata whenua inherit their natural qualities, gifts, skills and abilities through one's ancestry. Mana tangata acknowledges the self, and those connected to the self through whakapapa.

Plunket as a PTE

As a registered Private Training Establishment (PTE), Plunket delivers NZQA approved programmes both within the clinical sector and in schools.

Plunket Education in Schools (EIS) is part of the PTE.

Our programmes aim to provide opportunities for students to gain skills in early childhood learning and the care of infants, toddlers and younger children. These skills may be utilised as support for Kaiako, kaiāwhina and carers in the early childhood area, leading to improved outcomes for communities, whanau and parenting.

EIS provide 26 assessed units to schools and two non-assessed life skills courses – Babysitting and Caring for Kids. Students are able to work towards the New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Learning and Care, Level 2 which EIS provide.

For some of these courses we offer there are practical sessions when we ask volunteer families to join us in the classroom for 30-40 minutes. These sessions might include students asking questions to the parents about what it is like to be a parent and about their children (their age/s, how the parents meet their children/s needs: nurturing, sleeping, feeding, clothing, keeping them safe and clean etc). Some sessions will have a focus of play and toy testing, but others might be, so the students can observe the children or provide a meal they have cooked to the children.

We will always advertise the focus of the class so that you know what you will be involved in when you come along

Why teach early childhood-based learning and skills at secondary schools?

Our programmes aim to provide opportunities for students to gain skills in early childhood learning and the care of infants, toddlers and young children. These skills may be utilised as support for kaiako, kaiāwhina and carers in the early childhood area, leading to improved outcomes for communities, whanau and parenting.

Aims of Education in Schools

To develop the knowledge and confidence required to responsibly care for a child / tamariki.

To convey that caring for children / parenting is very demanding and at times challenging but, with a supportive environment, it can also be an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience

To teach the basic skills required for the positive caring for / parenting of young children, which includes love, sense of belonging, safety, security and education, all appropriate to the child's age and stage of development

To promote the Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust and its role in health promotion and support within your community, family / whānau.

Matching volunteer parents to the school

As a volunteer parent you bring a wealth of experience, qualities and skills which students can tap into in the classroom.

In some instances we may ask for specific age groups for a session but generally we invite any families who are available to come along.

As a volunteer parent, you and your child are a key part of the learning for students. You provide a unique, first-hand experience, and support successful learning and assessment.

Personal safety

It is Plunket's intention to maintain and respect the privacy, dignity and lifestyle of the family at all times.

Parents and their children will be introduced to the class. The class will have been reminded about the courtesies expected towards school visitors and will be expected to behave accordingly. The class teacher will always be in attendance and our expectation is that they monitor behaviour so our educator is focussing on the practical session.

Whilst you are on the school grounds and signed in to the school visitor management you and your child/ren will be covered by the school's health and safety and emergency plan to keep you safe.

Volunteer parents as role models

Role modelling positive adult-children interactions is key to promoting Plunket's positive parenting messages.

Students are also receptive to other qualities which might include:

- respect
- empathy
- genuineness
- humility
- non-judgemental
- active listening
- responsive
- flexible
- sensitive
- encouraging

What happens in the classroom?

- The units are delivered by trained Plunket Educators and/or teachers
- Classes are generally run some time between 8.45am – 3.30pm during the school terms but occasionally we may hold community courses in the holidays
- Most sessions run between 45-60 minutes and parents attend for approximately 30-40 minutes
- On arrival at the school office, students will be waiting to help you to the classroom
- Our classes will be advertised on our Facebook pages or you will be contacted by your Plunket local Parent Coordinator when they are organising parents for a session to see if you are available and they will let you know what is expected to happen in each session.
- Sometimes you might be involved in a play session, you might be asked to bring your child's favourite toy. Play is a big part of how children learn and a great way for students to see first hand, through play, the ages and stages of children. Other classes might focus on nutrition and the students will have to provide a meal to the children that they have prepared to pass their assessment (we would always advertise this to parents first). Other focus sessions might be so that students can observe the children and discuss with you how you meet your children's needs.
- The EIS Parent Coordinator will provide you with details relating to each unit you might be supporting, and the Educator will guide you through each session to meet the needs of the particular unit and the group.

What happens if you are unable to attend the session?

If you have indicated your commitment to a session and then find that you are unable to attend, please text the Plunket Educator or our National Coordinator (027 6878335) so that another parent might be contacted at short notice.

Plunket Client Privacy Policy and Collecting Information

The only information we gather from parents is:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Email
- Gender, Name and Birth Date of child/ren

Storage of Personal Information

Any of the personal information above is kept in secure storage.

Commented [j1]: See above

Special care is taken not to leave any personal or identifying information in places where unauthorised people might have access to it.

Taking Photographs

Consent for Publication and Reproduction of Images

It is usual for schools to have signed parental/caregiver consent for photographs/publications for children under the age of 18. Any images intended for this use would be provided prior to use for final consent and to identify any students who might be exempt from this consent.

Volunteer parents are requested to NOT take photos in class due to privacy issues. Students are also requested not to use phones or take photos during these sessions.

Your volunteer parent experience

We hope you will have a great experience with Plunket Education in Schools.

We are keen to hear from you about your experience in the classroom:

- Did the Parent Coordinator keep you informed and confirm details? (school address, time, where to go when you got to the school)
- Did you feel supported in the classroom?

We really need to know about the quality of your experience so that we can maintain a high standard of learning for the students and ensure your safety and enjoyment of this unique experience.

Feedback/survey

We invite you to complete a quick survey on your experience.

Here is the link [Volunteer Parent Feedback Form](#)

This form is also on our Facebook pages saved under the 'files' section. Please open the file and give us feedback – this is really helpful for us to help improve our programmes and processes.

Thank You

The Education in Schools Team is very grateful for your contribution of time, effort and commitment in support of our education programmes.

As a volunteer parent, your input and shared experience is both valued and appreciated. Students are provided with the most unique, in-class experience with you and your child/ren, and this continues to be the highlight of their learning.

We hope that you enjoy your volunteer role in the classroom and continue to be a supporter of the Education in Schools programme.