

# Whanganui Central Baptist Kindergarten & Learning Centres



Whanganui Central Baptist Kindergarten (CBK) believes that the best outcomes for children are achieved by **engaging with the whole family, not the child in isolation.**



CBK is more than an early childhood centre – it is a ‘community of learning’ and has grown to incorporate a range of parent support and development activities. The Whanganui Central Baptist Kindergarten has moved beyond “service-delivery” to intentional community-building based on research indicating early childhood centres are fantastic places for building communities.

## How did it happen?

CBK works holistically with families across its four centres with activities such as: 303 – a daily, morning informal drop-in session for parents of all ages and stages. It is intentionally building relationships with parents; connecting parents to other parents, and connecting parents to services; SKIP (Strategies for Kids, Information for Parents); Awhiawhi – weekly sessions for newborns and their parents in a friendly and relaxed environment and HIPPY – a Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters.

## What has changed

The CBK team has tracked the progress of participants who stepped up and became facilitators at 303. The evidence shows that being a 303 Facilitator has led to further employment and positive changes for all parents involved. Out of the 20 parent facilitators tracked over time, all have since gone onto further education or employment.

### For example, since being a 303 Parent facilitator:

- A single parent who had completed only Year 12 at school, went on to work full time for an educational organisation and has completed a Bachelor of Social Work.
- A single parent who had her first baby at 16 years old, went on to complete a Bachelor of Communications and Marketing.
- A parent who had left school early and was working in cleaning jobs has gone on to part-time employment as a HIPPY tutor, volunteers in the community and is involved in restorative justice.

As for the 11 year SKIP Collaboration – people are accessing parent resources, information, attending parenting courses – it is just ‘what you do’.



Working with families across four centres



CBK is a community-development philosophy



Being a 303 Facilitator has led to further employment

# Collaboration among agencies and organisations has a positive impact on the wider community.



With a community-development philosophy and approach, centres can be more than child-centred education services. CBK has expanded its outlook to be one of working alongside parents and whānau, not just the child. CBK has also intentionally focused on linking whānau to whānau and on linking whānau to other services and supports in the community. Supporting parents and whānau leads to better long-term effects for the whole family.



## What's been learned

- To really bring about change you have to be alongside parents and whānau for the distance. Building in-depth relationships and staying connected with people for many years matters.
- 303 is not a social service agency, which makes it unique.
- The right personnel are key.
- Funding is critical. Untagged funding allows the freedom to work with people in ways they need. 303 does not fit into any funding buckets. The funding model has not caught up with what CBK is doing.
- Being multi-layered is a key factor to CBK's success. There are many different places people can access CBK. Because of this there are many different doorways and levels of engagement.
- Collaboration among agencies and organisations has a positive impact on the wider community.



For more information about Child Rich Communities visit  
[everychildcounts.org.nz/resources%2BIndex/Community+led+development](http://everychildcounts.org.nz/resources%2BIndex/Community+led+development)

If you would like to know more please contact: [jenny@centralbaptistkindergarten.org.nz](mailto:jenny@centralbaptistkindergarten.org.nz)

[www.centralbaptistkindergarten.org.nz](http://www.centralbaptistkindergarten.org.nz)