

Question	ACT	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	TOP
Education						
1. Will your party act to prevent harm to child health, especially infant and toddler mental health, protect Kaiako, and improve the quality of ECE, by committing to an urgent improvement to, 1 teacher to 4 children, for children under two years, and 1 teacher to eight children for 2 year olds, within the next term of government?	No	Yes	- Labour has made significant investment into ECE and is providing nearly \$1.2 billion to extend the 20 Hours ECE subsidy to two-year-olds and increases the 20 Hours ECE subsidy rate. This supports parents and whānau with two-year-olds to access ECE and participate in the workforce. Through Budget 23 we have made some of the biggest investment ever seen in ECE, which will help centres transitioning to the extension of 20 hours free for 2 year olds, and address the cost pressures centres are facing.	No Not immediately. National will undertake a review to look at funding, pay parity implementation, qualifications and regulations utilising the sector Expert Advisory Group so there would be no changes prior to that	Yes	Yes
2. Will your party commit to increasing minimum space requirements per child in both indoor and outdoor environments in Early Childhood Centres, and that must be accessible to all children, in the next term of government?	No	Yes	- Our Government is committed to barrier-free access to education for all students. We are committed to supporting learners with the highest needs to ensure all young people are receiving the education they deserve. This Government is also investing in family carers by ensuring that parents, spouses and resident family members can be paid for support services if they provide care to a family member who has been assessed as having more than 'very low' needs.	- The sector has been under enormous pressure and implementing this prior to a review would put added pressure on centres with regard to the number of children they could enrol and higher fees for parents. This would be looked at after the review is undertaken	Skip this question	Yes
3. Will your party address the negative effects upon children and teachers by reducing the maximum numbers permitted in group sizes for children in centre-based, teacher-led, Early Childhood Centres, in the next term of government?	No	Yes	- Our Government is committed to barrier-free access to education for all students. We are committed to supporting learners with the highest needs to ensure all young people are receiving the education they deserve. This Government is also investing in family carers by ensuring that parents, spouses and resident family members can be paid for support services if they provide care to a family member who has been assessed as having more than 'very low' needs.	Other We will consider this within the overall review	Yes	Yes
4. Will your party commit to adequately funding timely assessment and well-resourced learning and behaviour support for children to enable inclusion regardless of ability or disability?	Need more evidence	Yes	- Our Government is committed to barrier-free access to education for all students. We are committed to supporting learners with the highest needs to ensure all young people are receiving the education they deserve. This Government is also investing in family carers by ensuring that parents, spouses and resident family members can be paid for support services if they provide care to a family member who has been assessed as having more than 'very low' needs.	Other We are yet to release our ECE policy.	Yes	Yes
5. Will your party make a sustained commitment to fund and resource Ka Ora Ka Ako - Healthy School Lunches Programme to embed this policy as a permanent part of education delivery in New Zealand?	No	Yes	Yes Yes. Evidence shows that as a result of this programme kids are experiencing better quality of life and learning outcomes as well as physical, social and emotional functioning. We know that when kids are fed and healthy they learn better.	Need more evidence National supports the programme in principle and will look at whether it can be improved and whether it is delivering desired outcomes.	Yes	Yes
6. Will your party support the inclusion of child rights learning in the New Zealand Curricula to ensure all children have the opportunity to learn about their rights?	No	Yes	Skip	Other National supports individual schools and their communities to do what is best for them. National expects that the convention on the Rights of the Child to be a part of this.	Yes	Yes

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Do you have any further comments or policies on this theme you would like to highlight?	An issue with ECE is the sheer level of bureaucracy and absurd prescriptive rules they have to follow. ACT propose instead that the focus should be on clear outcomes for safety and development of the children, for individual centres to show they meet through audited plans.					
Tick for Kids reflections / recommendations	We want to see greater focus on quality ECE and a commitment from the incoming government to address longstanding concerns with existing high child to teacher ratios, maximum numbers permitted in group sizes and minimum space requirements. These three key areas as they currently stand are undermining the ability of ECE to deliver quality care to Tamariki. This is a critical issue as current benchmarks do not support infant and toddler physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, nor do they protect Kaiako. We also seek greater funding and more timely access to learning and behaviour assessment programmes across the broad ECE and school sectors. Equitable and efficient access is critical to ensure that participation and learning opportunities are not limited. The introduction of Ka Ora Ka Ako - Healthy School Lunches Programme is an initiative that is addressing a major issue around food security in our schools. We are looking to the incoming government to make a sustained commitment to this programme as an investment in our children's future and also extend it to include early childhood centres.					