



## HEALTH ASSESSMENT VISITS

Early Childhood Centres are audited during health assessment visits by Health Protection Officers to ensure that they meet the minimum standards required by the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 and associated licensing criteria.

### Scope of the assessment visit

**Food safety and nutrition:** Food preparation areas are assessed for compliance with hygiene and safety requirements and to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to provide for the hygienic storage and preparation of foods and the effective cleaning of utensils.

**Water supply:** Each service must have access to an adequate and safe drinking water supply. Supplies and monitoring programmes, where applicable, are assessed in relation to the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (revised 2008).

**Sanitary facilities:** Services are assessed for the adequacy and maintenance of toilet, hand washing, bathing and laundry facilities. Hot water storage and use temperatures will also be examined to ensure minimum requirements are met.

**Communicable disease control:** A facility must be available for the temporary isolation and care of at least one sick child.

**Sleeping facilities:** Where a sleeping facility is required this is assessed in terms of safety and communicable disease control.

**Hygiene laundering:** Linen used by children and adults is hygienically laundered.

**Health and hygiene policies and procedures:** It is anticipated that centres will have a range of policies and procedures dealing with health and hygiene issues. Examples may include policies on routine cleaning, infection control, food hygiene training and the handling of soiled clothing.

**General safety and hygiene:** Health Protection Officers will assess the centre's policy in respect of a range of general health and safety matters including:

- food safety
- animal hygiene
- heating, lighting, ventilation and noise
- sewage disposal (non-reticulated)
- general hygiene and cleanliness
- general safety and maintenance for premises, furniture, fittings, equipment and materials.

**Immunisation records:** The Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995 require centres to maintain registers of each child's immunisation status. Public Health Nurses may wish to examine these records during the health assessment visit.