

End of Year Report to Te Rau Puawai Education Trust

Let's Play was originally a 10-week programme for whānau and their tamariki but, we have reduced the weeks to 9 currently after evaluation of the programme. The purpose of the programme is to bridge the gap from realising their tamaiti is developing differently to gaining access to specialist support. It also supports parenting skills, increases parents' confidence and bridges the gap from realising their tamaiti is developing differently to gaining access to specialist support. The programme gives whānau some tools and strategies to empower them to support their tamariki while they are waiting for further support. The programme helps whānau have joyful interactions with their tamariki and help them develop pivotal capacities for later learning. Whānau are given opportunities to meet and talk to others in similar situations and tools to use to minimize anxiety and stress. Te Whare Tapa Wha principles are woven into the programme to promote whānau well-being.

Unintended learning that informs practice

From communication and some interviews with parents receiving the service we have noted that there is positive flow on effect from the programme. A lot of whānau reported teaching the early childhood teachers where their child attends as well as extended family members the strategies they learned through the programme. In this case the parents are now becoming coaches to other people around their tamariki and the whole community is learning about how to support their autistic tamariki. Now as we evaluate our programme we are intentionally looking at encouraging all whānau to pass on their learning to all the people in their support circle.



With the support of the Te Rau Puāwai Education Trust, the Let's Play programme has achieved so much in 2025.

- Celebrated our 3-year anniversary in May
- 2 programmes in South Auckland
- 8 programmes in West Auckland (servicing West, East, North, and Central)
- 82 families total completed the 9/10 week programme
- [Interviewed on National Radio](#)
- [Research results released](#)
- [View a selection of recent exit interviews](#)

Thank you!

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Programme rounds

82

Whānau

110

Hours of group sessions

410

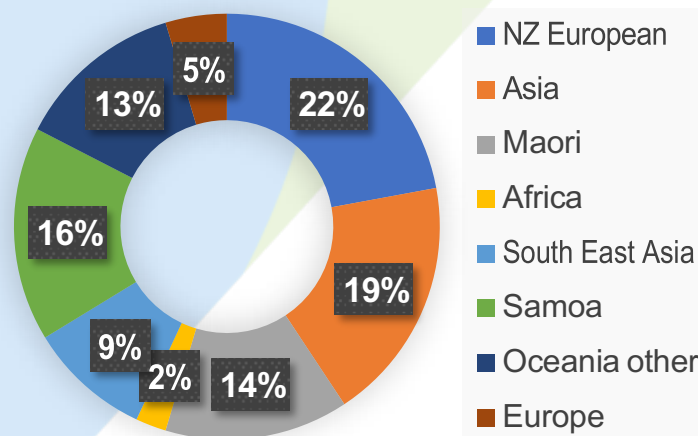
Hours of home visits

12

Girls

70

Boys





C■■■■■■s doing super good he's thriving at daycare and back to his normal hours, we've had no real meltdowns since we've finished the course and his understanding and trying to talk is improving he's even saying the sounds of letters through the alphabet

This programme was life changing in how we now parent our son. His level, his world; the positive changes it has made for our family is incredible. It really helped us find ways to communicate which has made such a difference in our son.

This has been the most amazing course for me to understand the simplicity of what it takes to play and engage with C■■■■■■ I will take this learning with me and learn more about C■■■■■■ through the strategies.

had his IP this morning and it went so well, I shared so much that I've learned during the course and we've set goals for T■■■■■■. It was such a good meeting 🙏🙏
🙏 (thanks to you and Neil)



I am so thankful to be part of this course. You and Neil have made such an impact on all the families. I can see that your heart is in this and just know that you make a difference 🙏🌸

Let's Play was amazing for us and helped my daughter to become verbal. 😊 it's a lot and you do have home visits / paperwork/ etc but it was 100% worth it for us and by far the most useful programme I have done.



F■■■■■■ is cutting his hair cut today and I thought of you guys 😊 I'm am so grateful for the program . We show him his booklet step by step of getting his hair cut and I cried seeing him just sitting there for his hair cut no crying no fight to get off the chair . Another big milestone for us no more fear in getting his hair cut



His language is continuing to develop through our games, pauses, and minimizing our words in particular. We think he says "go" when we are playing with balls, we say "1,2,3" and wait. He definitely has increased his shared attention and he's noticing more about what I'm saying, he then even said "eezzzz" over and over when we were asking if he wanted cheese! He's also become a pro at putting his shoes on now too! Honestly this course has given me so much more confidence and tools to support him and we can see the successes he is making!

