

EVIDENCE CENTRE
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

Appendix Two:
Understanding children with
disabilities in the Family
Start programme

September 2019



**ORANGA
TAMARIKI**
Ministry for Children

EVIDENCE CENTRE

TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

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The Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre works to build the evidence base that helps us better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for New Zealand's children, young people and their whānau.

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APPENDIX 2: METHODOLOGY

Method

In October 2018, we contacted 44 Family Start providers/sites¹ and invited them to participate in the survey via email. To take part, providers were asked to provide contact details for their staff (Family Start workers). Thirty-three sites provided contact emails of 283 Family Start workers, who were sent invitations to participate in an online survey via SurveyMonkey.

Family Start workers were asked about the children they work with and their families, and the services and supports they access. They were asked to consider in their responses to all children from the families they currently work with, but to focus on families who have children with disabilities. Some of the questions asked Family Start workers to provide numeric responses about the children and families they work with. However, numeric responses should be treated cautiously because Family Start workers were asked to provide an approximation if they did not have or did not know the exact number.

For the purposes of the survey:

- a child with a disability was defined as a child with long-term (six months or longer) physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disabilities, which along with other challenges the child may face can hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others
- disability was defined as the result of negative interactions between a child with one or more disabilities and their social environment. Impairment was defined as an injury, illness or congenital condition that causes or is likely to cause a loss or difference of physiological or psychological function.²

The survey included questions on agility, hearing, mobility, speech and language and vision disabilities, and developmental and intellectual disabilities. Appendix 3 has detailed definitions of specific disabilities.

The survey was conducted between October and December 2018. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and responses were kept confidential. The survey questionnaire was developed by the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre in consultation with the Family Start team at Oranga Tamariki and one Family Start provider, including Family Start workers.

Survey questions were informed by the definitions used in the 2013 Disability Survey conducted by Statistics New Zealand, and international conventions.³ The questionnaire contained a mix of 21 closed and open-ended questions; it was administered via SurveyMonkey and remained open for completion for six weeks. Family Start workers took approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey questionnaire.

¹ The list of providers was provided by Family Start Manager Megan Familton, as of October 2018. Note that two of the 44 providers listed were split across two sites, so Table 15 shows 46 providers.

² For more detail on the difference between impairment and disability see www.disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/library/Northern-Officers-Group-defining-impairment-and-disability.pdf#targetText=Disability%20is%20the%20result%20of,nor%20does%20it%20justify%2C%20disability.

³ For more detail on the definitions used in this research, refer to the *Disability Survey: 2013 Definitions* available at www.archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey_HOTP2013/Definitions.aspx, *Defining Impairment and Disability*, issued by The Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds at www.disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/library/Northern-Officers-Group-defining-impairment-and-disability.pdf and *Disabilities That Qualify Infants, Toddlers, Children, and Youth for Services under IDEA 2004* issued by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and available at www.ldonline.org/article/12399.

Survey participants

We contacted all providers by email at least once. Providers that did not respond to the first email were contacted a second time. Thirteen providers did not respond to the invitation or did not want to participate in the survey; these are highlighted in red in Table 1, which lists all providers that we contacted by Family Start region. Each of the five regions has a number of providers – Northland has four, Auckland six, Central 14, Midland 14 and Southern eight.

The 'Yes' column indicates the number of Family Start workers participants who responded to the survey from each provider that agreed to take part. The 'No' column shows the Family Start workers participants who received the SurveyMonkey invitation but did not respond to the survey questionnaire. The 'Total' column indicates the total number of invitations that were sent to the Family Start workers from the providers that agreed to participate in the survey.

Table 1: Family Start providers included in the survey

Providers by Family region	Responded		Total
	Yes	No	
Northern	12	12	24
Ngapuhi Te Hau ora Ngapuhi	3	5	8
Te Uri o Hau	3	5	8
Whānau Whānui	6	2	8
Kaitaia F/S -Te Runanga O Te Rarawa			
Auckland	13		14
West Fono Health Trust (The Fono)	11		11
Family Works Presbyterian Support Northern	3		3
Anglican Trust for Women and Children			
Family Start Manukau			
Kotahitanga Mangere -Turuki Health Care			
Papakura Marae -Kotahitanga			
Central	40	35	75
Barnardos Family Start	5	3	8
Kahungunu Executive Ki te Wairoa Charitable Trust	4		4
Naku Enei Tamar iki Inc (Maori)	4	2	6
Naku Enei Tamar iki Inc (Pasifika)	3	3	6
Raukawa Whānau Ora	8	1	9
Taeaomanino Trust	4	5	9
Te Kupenga Hauora	5	1	6
Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga		17	17
Tu Tama Wāhine O Taranaki	2	2	4
Whaiora Family Start	5	1	6
Manaaki Ora – Tipu Ora			
Plunket (Palmerston North)			
Raukawa Whānau Ora			

Te Oranganui -Iwi Health Authority			
Midland	44	33	77
Family Start Whakatane	6	3	9
Kirikiroa Family Services Trust	12	12	24
Kowhai Consulting Ltd	1		1
Royal NZ Plunket Society (Tauranga)	5	6	11
Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust		1	1
Te Manu Toroa Trust		3	3
Te Runanganui O Ngat i Porou	8	2	10
Tuhoe Hauora	2		2
Tuwharetoa Health Charitable Trust	3	1	4
Tuwharetoa Ki Kawerau Family Start	3		3
Waahi Whaanui Trust	2	3	5
Whakatohea Maori Trust	2	2	4
Hauraki Maori Trust Board			
Wesley Community Action			
Southern	51	42	93
Anglican Family Care	14	6	20
Early Start Project	11	18	29
Family Works - Presbyterian Support Southland	9	12	21
He Matapuna Ora Trust	9	3	12
Maataa Waka Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust	1	2	3
Presbyterian Support South Canterbury	7	1	8
Pillars (Trial Site)			
Tai Poutini Whānau Po Kite Ata Trust			
Total	159	124	283

Table 2 shows the service coverage area by Family Start region.

Table 2: Family Start regions and site areas

Family Start region	Family Start site area
Auckland	Waitakere Ranges - Board/Waitemata – Board/Upper Harbour-Board/Rodney-Board
	Waitakere-Board/Hibiscus and Bays-Board/Kaipatiki-Board
Central	Horowhenua
	Masterton/Carterton/South Wairarapa
	Napier
	New Plymouth/Stratford/South Taranaki
	Porirua/Wellington
	Taranaki
	Upper Hutt/Lower Hutt
	Wairoa
Midland	Gisborne
	Hamilton/Waipā
	Kawerau/Whakatāne
	Ōpōtiki
	Taupō
	Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty
	Waikato
	Whakatāne
	Whakatāne (Tūhoe rohe)
	Northern
Whāngārei	
Whāngārei/Kaipara/Rodney-Board	
Southern	Ashburton/Timaru/Waimate/Mackenzie
	Christchurch/Waimakariri/Selwyn/Hurunui
	Dunedin/Waitaki/Clutha/Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago
	Invercargill/Southland
	Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough

Response rate

Of the 283 Family Start workers to whom the questionnaire was sent, 159 survey participants from 33 of 46 sites provided responses. One hundred and eight participants completed the survey questionnaire and 51 provided partial responses. The response rate was 56%, and the completion rate 68%. Table 3 presents the distribution of Family Start workers' responses by geographical area. The Central, Midland and Southern regions had much higher levels of Family Start worker participation than the Northland and Auckland regions.

Table 3: Family Start workers' survey participation by Family Start region

Family Start region	Responses			No response	Total invitations
	Completed	Partial	Total		
Northern	7	6	13	12	25
Auckland	9	2	11	2	13
Central	23	17	40	35	75
Midland	30	14	44	33	77
Southern	39	12	51	42	93
Total	108	51	159	124	283

While all Family Start providers were contacted and invited to participate in the survey, their levels of engagement and response were mixed, as reflected in the number of providers that did not take part in the survey.

For this reason, the survey results cannot be seen as representative or otherwise. With this in mind, the study is non-probabilistic rather than representative, which has limitations for the generalisability of the results. However, the survey was not conceived or designed to be representative statistically speaking, but to explore disabilities in young children from families participating in the Family Start programme.

