

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF Homeschooling YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS?



A Guide by the National
Council of Home Educators NZ

YOUR CHILD CAN:

- ✓ Progress at their own pace
- ✓ Easier to focus, with less distraction and over-stimulation
- ✓ Feel less pressure to compete academically
- ✓ Reduce stress and anxiety
- ✓ Receive one-on-one support from their parent/caregiver
- ✓ Develop and grow in a supportive, loving environment
- ✓ Make friends with the support and guidance of their parent/caregiver
- ✓ Build coping skills at their own pace without rigid structures or unnecessary rules and regulations

YOU CAN:

- ✓ Be part of a strong and supportive special education community of NZ homeschoolers
- ✓ Have peace of mind that instructions from therapists are being followed and implemented in your child's day-to-day learning
- ✓ Eliminate gaps in communication between teachers, therapists, and doctors
- ✓ Tailor your child's education to their specific needs and interests
- ✓ Teach life skills alongside an academic education
- ✓ Tailor social time according to your child's needs

SOME Homeschooling FAQ

CAN I APPLY TO HOMESCHOOL IF MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS?

Yes. If your child has a formal diagnosis the application is slightly more involved but only when it comes to how you will be supporting your child's areas of need.

WOULD MY CHILD STILL QUALIFY FOR ORS FUNDING IF I HOME EDUCATE?

Yes. The criteria for ORS funding is exactly the same as a child who goes to school. The only difference is which part of ORS funding home educators have access to. Most teacher's aide and in-school support is not accessible to home educators as they are supports to help children cope and learn in a classroom environment.

HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT GETTING MY CHILDREN ASSESSED FOR LEARNING DISORDERS IF THEY ARE HOME EDUCATED?

If you suspect your child may have a learning disability you could speak to your child's GP who can refer you to your DHB's Child Development Services for assessments. Alternatively you could contact your local Ministry of Education Learning Support team for help.

CAN I ENROL MY CHILD IN TE KURA (FORMERLY THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL)?

Students access Te Kura via one of the available enrolment gateways. There is no separate gateway for special education students although some students may be able to gain funded access via the psycho-social gateway. Parents of home educated students can also pay for courses from Te Kura if they choose. Full information about accessing Te Kura is available under Enrol on their website.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO FOLLOW A PARTICULAR CURRICULUM IF THEY HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS?

No, you can decide on what would be a suitable curriculum while ensuring that your child's educational needs are being met. You can do this by adapting a chosen curriculum to suit their needs or by accessing additional services such as occupational therapy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

National Council of Home Educators New Zealand
www.nchenz.org.nz