



25 March 2020

Re: Children of Essential workers

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This afternoon in our daily update from the Ministry of Education, they provided us with information in regard to care for children of essential workers. The following information is for any of our families who are classified as essential workers who will be required to continue working during the self-isolation period and who are not able to make arrangements for the care of their children.

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare from Thursday 26 March until the end of the lockdown, due to limited capacity.

Where this is not possible alternative arrangements have been made so essential workers can continue to work.

What essential workers need to know when making their own arrangements

Essential workers will need to use their existing networks for in home care, for example a neighbor, relative, friend or current carer/nanny who can come to their house, or provide childcare in their own home. There are Public Health rules that must be observed:

- *The person caring for your child becomes part of your self-isolating group*
- *This group must remain the same for the whole period*
- *The carer must not care for children from other households (other than their own) over the same period*
- *If a child or carer becomes unwell, they must stay at home*

If essential workers do not have access to childcare through their own networks

If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in-home care to the children aged 0-14 of essential workers. The carer would be subject to the same Public Health rules as set out above.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

Initial list of contact details for providers

- [Barnados website](#) - email covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- [Edubase / Home Grown Kids website](#) or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE website](#) 0800 023 456

Nga mihi nui
Amanda Bennett
Acting Principal

