



Rotorua offers excellent educational opportunities at all levels, with high standards of learning from pre-school through to secondary and tertiary education.

The Education Review Office (ERO) reviews early childhood education services and schools every three years, and publishes an ERO report on each facility. These reports can be viewed at [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz).

They provide useful information about the philosophy and teaching practises at each early education centre and school.

School Terms	
Term 1	Late January – mid April
Term 2	Late April – early July
Term 3	Mid July – late September
Term 4	Mid October – mid December

The school year runs from February to December and is divided into four terms of about ten weeks each. Terms are divided by two-week holidays, with a six-week summer holiday from mid-December to the end of January.

## Childcare and Early Childhood Education

(up to 5 years)

“All early childhood services should provide a safe and secure learning environment. Children should be accepted for who they are and participate in programmes that have meaning and purpose for them.

Parents/whānau should be treated with respect.....and always feel welcome to visit early childhood centres at any time.”

Source: Education Review Office – June 2006



### Kindergartens

Kindergartens provide early childhood education for 3 - 5 year olds. They are mostly government funded, with parents expected to fundraise and make up the shortfall in funding. Kindergartens only employ qualified teaching staff, and offer morning and afternoon sessions five days a week. Sessions are informal, with a focus on developing social skills and learning through play.

#### National:

**New Zealand Kindergartens Incorporated**  
[www.nzkindergarten.org.nz](http://www.nzkindergarten.org.nz)

#### Central North Island:

**Central North Island Kindergarten Association**  
[www.cni-kindergarten.org.nz](http://www.cni-kindergarten.org.nz)  
 T.0508 454 633

### Playcentres

Playcentres are run as parent co-operatives, with parents taking responsibility for running the centre and working with the children during the sessions. Playcentre philosophy is based on child initiated play and the importance of parents as educators.

**Playcentre**  
[www.playcentre.org.nz](http://www.playcentre.org.nz)

### Childcare Centres

There are many childcare centres in Rotorua. They include private, community, Montessori and Rudolph Steiner centres.

Fees can be charged on a weekly, daily or hourly basis.

### Kohanga reo

Kohanga reo are cooperatives where the families are responsible for the overall management of the centres. The aim of the centres is to foster young children's and parent's knowledge of te reo Māori (language) and tikānga Māori (culture).

**Information about how to choose a childcare and early learning centre can be obtained from:**

#### Plunket

T.07 348 4161

#### Ministry of Education

T.07 349 7399

#### Websites

[www.teamup.co.nz](http://www.teamup.co.nz)

[www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

See  **Yellow**

'Kindergartens'

'Childcare Care & Education'

'Playcentre & Preschool Centres'

### Early Childhood

#### Education Subsidies

From 1 July 2007, up to 20 hours of Free Early Childhood Education will be available each week to 3 and 4 year old children in participating childcare centres. The subsidy is available to all families who have permanent NZ residency. To enrol in the scheme, forms are available at participating organizations.

#### For further information,

**Early Childhood Education Information Line**

T.0800 204 433

## Children with Special Needs

Where ever possible, children with special needs are taught within the mainstream education system. Special needs education is available for children with physical and/or intellectual impairments; hearing or vision difficulties; children who struggle with learning, communicating, or getting along with others; or who have an emotional or behavioural difficulty.

Teams with specialist skills provide family focused support to young children with developmental needs from birth until they settle at school.

**To contact the office of Special Education in Rotorua,**

### Special Education

T. 07 348 5145

## Schools (from 6 to 16 years)

Schooling is compulsory for all children between 6 and 16 years, although most start on their fifth birthday and some students stay until they are 19 years. Although the Government covers most state schooling costs, parents are expected to pay some fees for school books, stationery, materials for art classes, uniforms and school trips.

Types of Schools		
Primary	5-10 years	Year 1-6
Intermediate	11-12 years	Year 7-8
Secondary	13-17 years	Year 9-13

## Choosing a School

The Ministry of Education also publishes the booklet, 'Schooling In New Zealand - A Guide'.

It can be viewed online [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) or obtained from the local Ministry of Education office.

Local schools are listed in the Teamup Schools Directory [www.teamup.co.nz/School\\_Directory](http://www.teamup.co.nz/School_Directory)

It contains information about New Zealand schools including contact details, students, subjects taught, how to find the school on a map and school Education Review Office (ERO) reports.

[www.teamup.co.nz/School\\_Directory](http://www.teamup.co.nz/School_Directory)

Once you have made a list of possible schools, families have the right to visit the schools, meet the school principals and staff and view the ERO reports, before enrolling their children as students.

## Home Zones

Most schools in the Rotorua district do not have a zoning scheme. Zoning is used by schools to avoid overcrowding in schools and to allow children living within a defined 'home zone' to enrol at their local school.

**To check whether a school operates a zoning scheme, go to**

[www.schoolzones.co.nz](http://www.schoolzones.co.nz)

## Home Schooling

Parents can choose to educate their children at home, during the compulsory schooling ages (6 to 16), but must get approval from the Ministry of Education to do so.

Parents must satisfy the Ministry that the child will be taught at least as regularly and as well as in a registered school. If satisfied the Ministry Issues an exemption certificate.

The parents/caregivers do not have to teach the child, they can arrange for someone else to teach the child or may purchase a programme from someone else. Homeschooling parents are given an annual grant to help with the cost of learning materials or programme purchase.

**Contact the local Ministry of Education office for a Home Schooling Application Pack**

### Ministry of Education

T. 07 349 7399

E. [enquiries.rotorua@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries.rotorua@minedu.govt.nz)

[www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

**For further information about how to get started and the local support groups in Rotorua, contact**

### NZ Home Education

Heather Jeffcote

T. 07 348 4794

[www.home.school.nz](http://www.home.school.nz).

## OSCAR

Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Programmes are before school, after school and school holiday programmes for children age 5 to 13.

They are recreation based and they aim to meet the needs of children in their out of school hours in a safe and fun way. Many OSCAR programmes are run by community organisations – schools, community centers, parent groups, churches etc. Others are run by private providers such as early childhood centres.

OSCAR programmes are funded by a mixture of parent fees, the government funding and fundraising. The Working for Families government subsidy can help parents with fees.

### The OSCAR Foundation

[www.oscar.org.nz](http://www.oscar.org.nz)

**To find an OSCAR programme in Rotorua, go to**

### Go Kids

[www.gokids.org.nz](http://www.gokids.org.nz)

## School Holiday Programmes

**Key providers include:**

Rotorua District Council Aquatic Centre	T. 07 348 8833
Rotorua Public Library	T. 07 348 4177
Craft Ware & Bead Me Up	T. 07 349 0844
RAVE Art Adventurers	T. 07 348 9008
Rotorua Blue Light	T. 07 343 1728
Rotorua Community Youth Centre	T. 07 343 1012

Providers vary depending on the time of year.

Check out local newspapers for further school holiday activities.

## Ministry of Education

### Ministry of Education

Level 4, 1144 Pukaki St. P O Box 1749, Rotorua

T. 07 349 7399

E. [enquiries.rotorua@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries.rotorua@minedu.govt.nz)

[www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)



## Tertiary Education

The main providers of tertiary education in Rotorua are:

### Waiariki Institute of Technology

Mokoia Drive, Rotorua  
T. 0800 924 274  
[www.waiariki.ac.nz](http://www.waiariki.ac.nz)

### Te Wananga O Aotearoa

1 Dinsdale Road, Rotorua  
T. 07 349 2360  
[www.twoa.ac.nz](http://www.twoa.ac.nz)

They offer a range of short, full and part time courses, including: arts, business administration, forestry, nursing, tourism, hospitality, teaching, health and social sciences.

## Adult and Community Education

A wide choice of courses are available throughout the year including painting, pottery, languages, music and computing. These short courses provide an excellent opportunity to have fun, learn a new skill and meet people.

For up to date information contact:

### RAVE

1204 Hinemaru St, Rotorua  
T. 07 3489008

### Mokoia Community Association

297 Vaughan Road, Rotorua  
T. 07 345 5971

## Other Vocational and Industry Training providers

### Modern Apprenticeships

T. 0800 427 773  
[www.modernapprenticeships.co.nz](http://www.modernapprenticeships.co.nz)

This is work based education, for 16 to 21 year olds where you earn while you learn. Check out the website for industry training opportunities in the Bay of Plenty.

### Career NetWork

1057 Hinemoa Street, Rotorua  
T. 07 348 4894  
[www.careernetwork.co.nz](http://www.careernetwork.co.nz)  
Tourism and Hospitality

### Eastside Training Limited

5 Scott Street, Rotorua  
T. 07 348 8487  
Forestry

### Fashion and Faces International

Level 1/1250 Fenton Street, Rotorua  
T. 07 3492904  
Personal Services - Hairdressing or Beauty, Retail, Wholesale & Warehouse

### Te Runanga O Ngati Pikiao

4 Tamatea Street, Rotoiti, Rotorua  
T. 07 3485384  
Forestry

### Agriculture New Zealand

Wrightsons Building, Marguerita Street, Rotorua  
T. 07 9124016  
Agriculture, Horticulture

### Trade & Commerce Centre Ltd

2nd Floor, 1154 Hinemoa Street, Rotorua  
T. 07 3481843  
[www.tradeandcommerce.co.nz](http://www.tradeandcommerce.co.nz)  
Clerical & administration, Computing

See  'Training'