

NOISE MANAGEMENT

Rationale:

Treetops ELC acknowledges that we have a primary responsibility to ensure that our premises do not generate excessive noise disturbance. The purpose of this noise management plan is to detail the procedures we aim to adopt to ensure, as far as possible, the minimisation of disturbance to local residents by activities in and around the Centre; and to ensure we comply with consented noise levels as per resource consent.

Guidelines:

The potential sources of noise from Treetops are:

- Children using the outdoor play area;
- Vehicle movements in the car park;
- Voices in the outdoor play area;
- Activities inside the childcare centre building;
- The main source of noise and the one that has the greatest potential to exceed the noise limit is children using the outdoor play area. Acoustic fencing has been erected to protect immediate neighbours in Pukekohe, which in combination with a high standard of supervision is predicted to maintain noise at compliant levels.

Because of the street frontage parking locations and the existing road traffic noise there will be minimal effects from on-site vehicle movements on neighbouring properties and the fence along the northern boundary will ensure compliance levels on the adjacent property at Pukekohe.

The building layout has been designed so that even with the windows open for ventilation, there will be sufficient distance separation to control noise from within the building to compliant levels, but staff may consider closing some or all windows during singing and musical activities to minimise boundary noise levels.

Procedures:

Because of concerns of the effects of noise on neighbouring properties specific training will be provided to ensure that:

- Staff are fully aware of the need to control excessively noisy behaviour to maintain compliance with noise limits;
- Outdoor play activities are designed and managed to maintain children's interest and attention;
- Whilst active play is encouraged, screaming and shouting is not – it is considered that this type of behaviour can be intimidating to other children;
- Outdoor music activities will be monitored and noise from these will be kept within required limits and
- Children will be regularly reminded of the effect of noise on neighbours through conversation with teachers.
- Noise levels will be monitored and any concerns raised with the CM who can check noise levels as required. These will be reviewed as per the annual plan and other measures put in place as or when needed.

Rationale:

Treetops ELC are committed to health and safety procedures that ensure all aspects of children’s health and well being, including monitoring noise levels within our environment.

Guidelines:

All practicable steps are taken to ensure that noise levels do not unduly interfere with normal speech and/or communication, or cause any child attending distress or harm.

The **world health organization (1999)** has recommended maximum noise exposures in early childhood education and care centre environments.

Indoor recommendation **45 decibels**

Outdoor recommendation: **55 decibels**

In addition to this, the legal requirements as set by WorkSafe NZ state that workers should not be exposed to noise levels exceeding:

- **85 decibels** averaged over an 8-hour work period, or
- **140 decibels** at any peak noise level.

Procedures:

- Kaiako are aware of the need to control excessively noisy environments for the safety and well being of children.
- Music will be played at a level where communication and conversations with children can be maintained.
- Kaiako will be aware of noise levels and any experience involving high levels of noise, such as playing music, musical instruments etc shall be monitored.
- We are mindful of the nature of children’s events that may have an increased level of noise for a short period of time and these will be monitored by kaiako.

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