

# LEAP: Language, ENGAGE and Play. Understanding emotions and meeting challenges through play

ACTRN12621000346875

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**Status** RECRUITING  
**Sponsor** Dr Alison Leversha  
**Enrollment** 330 participants

## Plain Language Summary

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Self-regulation — the ability to manage emotions, control impulses, and stay focused — is a skill that underpins success in learning, social relationships, and long-term health. The LEAP (Language, ENGAGE and Play) trial is adapting and testing a series of play-based educational games designed to build self-regulation and language skills in 5 and 6-year-old children in Auckland's Tamaki community. The games are based on an earlier successful program called ENGAGE and are being adapted to be even more developmentally appropriate for preschool-age children.

The trial is being run through primary schools in the Manaiakalani Community of Learning (COL) in Auckland, New Zealand. All children in years 1 and 2 at participating schools will take part in the games as part of their regular classroom activities. Assessment data will only be collected from children whose parents have given consent.

There are no restrictions on gender, ethnicity, language, or socioeconomic background for participation. This community-led approach to early childhood development could have meaningful long-term effects on children's health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes — particularly in communities facing social and economic disadvantage.

## Key Eligibility Criteria

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### Inclusion (2)

- The principals from all primary schools in the Manaiakalani COL are continuing with ENGAGE as part of usual classroom pedagogy and have agreed the COL will participate in the trial: either ENGAGE or the adaptation of ENGAGE and subsequent implementation of LEAP. The eligible population is thus children in years 1 and 2 enrolled in the schools in the COL.
- All children will participate as part of usual classroom pedagogy. Children with pre- and post- behaviour measures will be included in the cluster-specific analyses. Children whose parents decline consent to assessment will participate in the ENGAGE or LEAP as part of usual pedagogy but will not have assessments done or have their data included in the trial.

### Exclusion (1)

- Nil (except children whose parents decline consent). There will be no gender, racial/ethnic, language, or socioeconomic restrictions to participation in this study.

## Locations (1 total)

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Auckland, New Zealand

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<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12621000346875>

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