

Colour slide collection (selected examples)
Kindergartens c.1970s
Dunedin Kindergarten Association MS-1991-002
Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena,
University of Otago

The slides do not appear to be from Dunedin and are almost certainly from Auckland. Some of the images are also coloured photos in an album in the Auckland Kindergarten Association archives held in the Grey Collections of the Auckland Public Library NZMS1275.

'The first colour photos of kindergarten in the Hocken collections are a set of over 100 slides labelled '1970s'. Colour provides a richer dimension to the plays of kindergarten, but as well, the activities at kindergarten have pushed aside many earlier rules. The paint has moved off the paper and is on the windows and walls; the water is in the sand and on the paths; children are climbing on everything and everywhere. The spaces are fluid and flexible inside and outside. The neat and orderly appearance of the early kindergarten is now a riot of colour and junk with an appearance of disorder in an environment that is continually changing. Still evident though are the traditional kindergarten activities: weaving, music, movement, paper crafts, blocks and gardening. The slide collection is labelled according to the kind of activity: imaginative, manipulative, family play, with all the traditional play areas still covered. There is, however, a new emphasis in the labelling with a range of the slides cited as: 'moveable equipment' and 'surfaces'. This highlighted the view that children should have more control over their environment particularly in the outdoors. The equipment was designed to be changeable and constructed by children. Immovable jungle gyms and bars had been replaced by boxes, ladders, planks and tyres, and reinvented as objects of play on a daily basis. The neat play areas with a hard surface space, lawn, contained, sandpit and possibly a bicycle path track and a neat garden, had become a jungle of interesting surfaces, pathways and possibilities: all mixed up and forever changing. The slide collection was probably used for teaching purposes. Some or even all the slides are from outside of Dunedin. They provide a colourful glimpse of a younger generation of kindergarten teachers determined to experiment and 'liberate' themselves and children from the older rules.'

Helen May (2014) *People, places and play in the 'child gardens' of Dunedin, Dunedin Kindergartens - Mana Manaaki Puawai O Otepoti 125 years old*, Dunedin Kindergartens, p. 97.



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