

PROJECT PROFILE

KIDSFIRST KINDERGARTEN KAIAPOI NORTH



Buildings to Live, Work and Learn

A new lease of life for pre-schoolers affected by the Christchurch earthquakes



Building Solutions

An ALGECO SCOTSMAN Company

THE CHALLENGE

Design, safety and speed

When the 7.2 magnitude Christchurch earthquake struck in September 2010, Kidsfirst Charles Street Kindergarten found they were without accommodation.

With more than 45 pre-schoolers to house, and no other local centre available to absorb the children, the Ministry of Education had to find safe, alternative facilities right away.

THE SOLUTION

Purpose built, secure, transportable building

With an established reputation for providing quality temporary build solutions across Christchurch since the earthquakes, the Portacom team was approached. Within just 10 weeks of receiving resource and building consent from the council, a new purpose-built, relocatable early childhood education building, that met all of the New Zealand education regulations, was designed and erected by Portacom in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

The 430sqm building was constructed in Portacom's Hornby factory in four pieces. The building modules were then transported to its new home at the Kaiapoi Domain where the building was placed on its foundations and completed.

Phil Botting, Portacom South Island Manager said: 'As we manage all the site prep, all the necessary pre-planning is done by the time the building arrives ready for set up - this reduces the time involved and any potential headaches.'

The last of the four pieces was being tied down onto the piles on the 13th of June 2011 when a 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit, severely damaging adjacent buildings. True to its claim, the Portacom building held fast and the team went on to complete the exterior and interior with its custom made fixtures and fittings.

THE RESULT

High spec, stunning new centre with all the features required for pre-school children to learn and play

The new Kidsfirst Kindergarten building was officially re-opened on the 12th September 2011.

'What impressed me was the quality design and finish, you wouldn't believe that it is in fact, a transportable building.' - Sherryll Wilson, CEO, Kidsfirst Kindergarten

'The children and staff are thrilled with the new building which has created a perfect kindergarten setting, it has such a feeling of space indoors.' says Sherryll Wilson, CEO of Kidsfirst Kindergartens.

Wilson says 'The Portacom team were so easy to work with, nothing was too much trouble. I have since contacted Phil and the team to advise on solutions for other Kidsfirst Kindergartens that have been damaged as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes.'

The Ministry of Education are also pleased with the outcome. The Portacom building offers a high quality solution to a permanent build. However, the advantage with this relocatable build was resource and building consent was approved very quickly, the build speedier, and the cost lower. And having the flexibility to transport the building helps the Ministry to address capacity issues and changing demand in early childhood education in the future.

The Ministry of Education has since worked with Portacom on two more relocatable, purpose-built early childhood education centres in Christchurch - North Beach Community Childcare Centre and Sydenham Community Preschool.

FAST FACTS

Project Name:

Kidsfirst Kindergarten Kaiapoi North

Client Name:

Ministry of Education

Industry:

Education

Size:

430m² (28 x 15m) including outdoor deck areas

Year:

2010

Location:

● Kaiapoi, Christchurch



FEATURES

- ✓ Large open plan multi-purpose rooms and play areas
- ✓ Spacious office/staff room
- ✓ Functional kitchen
- ✓ Specially designed bathrooms and nappy change areas
- ✓ Art areas with sinks
- ✓ Fitted shelving and cubby holes
- ✓ Large storage areas
- ✓ Laundry area
- ✓ Three metre fenced and covered deck
- ✓ Ramps and steps