



Taitoko Kindergarten's staff are making history.

This year teacher Wilson Kiriona, who has been working at Taitoko for more than four years, has been joined by relieving head teacher Garth Armstrong.

For the first time in the history of the Wellington Region Free Kindergarten Association a kindergarten has an all male teaching team, kindergarten services manager Gillian Dodson said.

Kindergarten teaching is an occupation where 99 per cent of teachers are women.

Mr Armstrong said having all male staff wouldn't make any difference in terms of the teaching programme but men did interact differently with the children than women.

"It's hard to put your finger on what the differences are but they are there."

It would be good for the children to have positive role models, he

said.

Mr Armstrong said they had received a positive reaction from parents.

"No one has raised any concerns. They have seen the way we work with the children and are comfortable," he said.

Mr Wilson said he hadn't really given any thought to the unusual situation.

"I've haven't really noticed any difference," he said.

Mr Armstrong was working with special needs children in kindergartens in the Wellington area before moving to Taitoko kindergarten this year.

Picture: Taitoko Kindergarten teachers Garth Armstrong and Wilson Kiriona with four-year-olds Cameron Price, Don Itielu, and Tamika Bevan.