

## CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: First aid/Safety role play

Tikanga Practices: Ngā Tangata Tiaki is demonstrated by tamariki:

- Learning how to care for others with kindness and gentle hands.
- Practising how to help in calm, safe, and thoughtful ways.
- Develop understandings of others' needs and practice supportive, caring responses in play.

### Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. Do tamariki have genuine opportunities to express ideas, lead, and make decisions that reflect the values of Ngā Tangata Tiaki?
2. How do you enrich tamariki understandings of what it means to be a tangata tiaki in everyday actions and relationships?



## NGĀ KĪWAHA – SAYINGS

### Ako mai i te ao tūroa!

*Learn from nature, it's the best teacher*

This kīwaha can be used during mat times, environmental play, or storytelling moments to reinforce kaitiakitanga, mātauranga Māori, and tamariki identity as tangata tiaki.

### Wai ora, Wai mā!

*Fresh water, clean life!*

This kīwaha can be used as a playful prompt, wall displays, or woven into waiata and storytelling to help tamariki connect with te ao Māori and their role as tangata tiaki.

### He toa koe i te hāpori

*You're a hero in our community*

This kīwaha can be introduced during mat time, walks, or group discussions, and used to support language, identity, and community values.

### He ngākau atawhai tōku

*I've got a kind and caring heart*

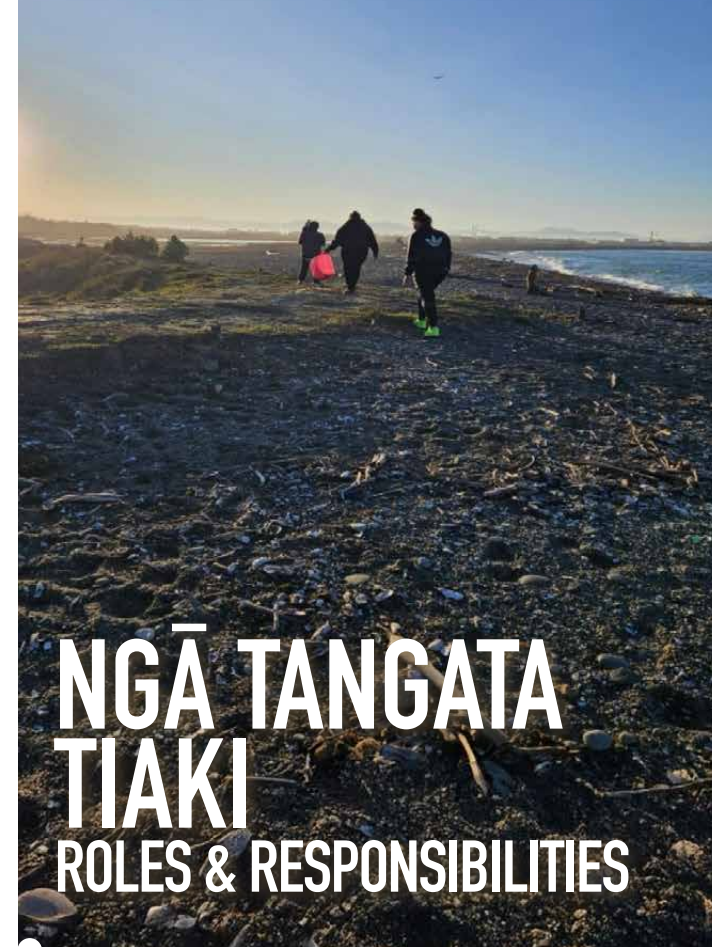
This is a celebratory kīwaha, perfect for reinforcing positive behaviour, learning outcomes, and tamariki identity as tangata tiaki.



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pronunciation  
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## Ngā Taonga Whakaako Tikanga Māori – Theory and Practice

Early Childhood Education Contexts



# NGĀ TANGATA TIAKI ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

UC  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CANTERBURY

Te Kāhui Pā Harakeke  
Child Well-being  
Research Institute

Ako  
AOTEAROA

Authors: Ngaroma M. Williams, Tracy Dayman, Lana R. Williams, 2025.





# NGĀ TANGATA TIAKI

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ngā Tangata Tiaki roles and responsibilities of caretakers of the land, waters, and all living things. Their role is to protect and preserve the environment, ensuring it remains healthy for future generations. As protectors, they make decisions guided by respect for nature and mātauranga Māori. Ngā Tangata Tiaki uphold tikanga and values that connect people to the natural world. They also carry the responsibility of passing on this knowledge, language, and cultural practices, ensuring they are not lost. In doing so, they support both environmental sustainability and the preservation of Māori identity, wisdom, and wellbeing.



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## CURRICULUM ACTIVITY:

### Sensory, Inquiry and Science Play: Water Play and Local Waterscapes

During water play, kaiako introduce tamariki to stories about local waterways and the guardians who care for them. Children take turns pouring and exploring water respectfully, learning that people have responsibilities to protect and sustain these places. Ngā tangata tiaki is reinforced through observation, discussion, and modelling respectful care for natural resources.

#### Tikanga Practices: Ngā Tangata Tiaki are portrayed as tamariki:

- Learn that people and guardians (kaitiaki) have deep, ongoing relationships with rivers and are responsible for their wellbeing.
- Make meaningful connections between their water play and real-world actions that help protect and sustain our waterways.
- Understand that caring for the water also means caring for the creatures and ecosystems that depend upon it.

#### Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. In what ways do you connect water play to authentic understandings of caring for local waterways and the wider environment?
2. How do you use pūrākau, local stories, or community knowledge to enrich children's understanding of Ngā Tangata Tiaki and their own role as kaitiaki?

## CURRICULUM AREA:

### Local Community Helpers/Excursion

On a walk to the local library or fire station, tamariki learn about the roles of people who care for the community. Kaiako discuss responsibilities, safety, and respect for these roles. Ngā tangata tiaki is demonstrated as children develop an understanding of guardianship beyond the centre and the importance of contributing to community wellbeing.

#### Tikanga Practices: Ngā Tangata tiaki is demonstrated as tamariki:

- Recognise that firefighters are guardians who protect and serve the wellbeing of the community.
- Learn that those who share knowledge and help others to learn also show care and guardianship.
- Understand that caring for people's wellbeing is a vital role within the wider community.

#### Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. In what ways do you connect the local walks and visits to this tikanga principle: Ngā Tangata Tiaki?
2. How do you include stories, visuals, and experiences that highlight the diverse ways people act as tangata tiaki in the community?

