

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: Tiaki ngā pēpi me ngā pēpi nohinohi – Caring for infants and toddlers

Older tamariki assist kaiako in gently interacting with infants, offering toys, or helping feed under supervision. Children are taught respect, patience, and empathy in supporting the youngest whānau. Ūkaipō is expressed through fostering nurturing relationships and connections across age groups.

Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- Awahi mai, awahi atu: Kaiako guide tuakana to support teina (gender rule) or apply ako approach (across genders) with āhua ngāwari gentleness and empathy. Nurturing responsibility and compassion across age groups.
- Utu – Reciprocity: Kaiako promote reciprocal learning where tuakana offer guidance and teina inspire curiosity, reflecting whānau interdependence.
- Tapu me te Noa: Kaiako teach respect and care in routines, recognising nurturing as a sacred act that upholds each child's mana and safety.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you model nurturing and empathy across age groups?
2. How is tuakana–teina and ako approaches expressed throughout the daily programme?
3. How do you ensure the concepts of tapu and noa are observed in caregiving routines?



KARAKIA TĪMATATANGA

Ko te Mauri

Ko te mauri o Ranginui e tū ake nei
Ko te mauri o Papatūānuku e takoto nei

Ko te mauri o Rongo e kōkiri nei

Koia rā te mauri e kawe nei i mātou, Kōkiri!

From the essence of Ranginui above, Form the essence of
Papatūānuku below

It is the mauri of Rongo that guides us today. Go Forth!



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KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Kia Whakairia

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!

Restrictions are moved aside, so the pathway is clear,
To return to everyday activities, Enriched, unified
and blessed.



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Ngā Taonga Whakaako Tikanga Māori – Theory and Practice

Early Childhood Education Contexts



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Ako
AOTEAROA

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ŪKAIPŌ

ONE'S TRUE HOME

Ūkaipō represents the deep connection to one's true home — the place that nourishes, anchors, and strengthens the spirit.

It is where a person draws their identity, belonging, and purpose. Ūkaipō is not just a physical location; it is the source of emotional, cultural, and spiritual sustenance, where one is valued, has a place, and can contribute meaningfully to the collective. For Māori, having a secure connection to Ūkaipō is essential for well-being, identity, and resilience. When individuals are grounded in their Ūkaipō, they stand strong as whole beings, empowered to fulfil their roles, uphold their responsibilities, and support the vitality of their whānau, hapū, and iwi.



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From day one, Raria has been nurtured through her ūkaipōtanga — her connection to the whenua, her whānau, and the cultural taonga that hold her identity.

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: Whānau Corner

Nurturing Space: Belonging and Emotional Wellbeing

Tamariki gather in the whānau corner with photos, familiar objects, and quiet activities, supported by kaiako and peers. Children share stories about home, whakapapa, and family routines, feeling safe and valued. Ūkaipō is expressed as this space fosters belonging, security, and connection to family and identity.

*Kia ora te whānau
Ko Te Arawa, Ko Takitimu, Ko Tainui me
Mataatua ngā waka;
Ko Tarawera, ko Aoraki, ko Pūtauaki me
Wharepūhanga ngā maunga;
Ko Rotoruanui-a-Kahumatamomoe te
roto, Ko Waitaki, Ko Waikato me Te awa o
te Atua ngā awa;
Ko Ngāti Hurunga Te Rangi, Ko Ngāti
Tumatawera, Ko Tuhourangi, Ko Ngāti
Whakaue, ko Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau, Ko
Kāi Tahu, Ko Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga
me Ngāti Awa nga iwi;
Ko Awarua Oraumoa Haweti tōku ingoa;
Nō reira kia ora te whānau*



Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- Kaiako strengthen belonging by encouraging tamariki to share pepeha, pūrākau, stories, photos, and taonga from home, affirming whakapapa and whānau connections within the learning environment.
- Through warmth, empathy, and respect, kaiako create an emotionally safe space that values each child's mana, fostering confidence and wellbeing.
- Kaiako providing a calm, reflective atmosphere where karakia and waiata honour spiritual connections to whānau, whenua, and tūpuna, nurturing inner peace and belonging.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you create opportunities for tamariki to share their whānau stories?
2. How is diversity and whakapapa represented within this space?
3. How do you nurture manaakitanga and wairuatanga daily?

CURRICULUM AREA:

Quiet Reading Reflection Area

Tamariki sit in a cosy reading corner, looking at books and sharing stories about family and home. Kaiako engage individually, listening and discussing connections to the child's life. Ūkaipō is demonstrated as the space that nurtures a sense of safety, belonging, and emotional grounding.

Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- He mahi Atawhai (compassion) – Kaiako show compassion and gentleness through attentive presence, affirming the emotions of tamariki and nurturing trust and security in relationships.
- Ko te whakarongo: active mindful listening ensures tamariki feel heard, valued, and supported to express ideas and emotions safely.
- Tāngata Tiaki: Kaiako model care for the reading space, teaching tamariki that respecting the environment supports well-being, peace and belonging for all.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you demonstrate aroha and emotional presence?
2. How does whakarongo influence your practice with tamariki?
3. How do you teach care for shared spaces as tāngata tiaki?

