

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: Emotional Literacy and Reflective Practice

After a group conflict, kaiako sit with tamariki to talk about what happened and how each person felt. Through this conversation, children begin to see how understanding their own and others' emotions brings clarity — a form of māramatanga that supports peaceful relationships and self-awareness.

Tikanga Practices: Māramatanga is portrayed within this scenario through:

- Sharing and reflecting on acts: tamariki articulate their feelings and perspectives, providing an expanded understanding of self and others.
- Aroha ki te tangata (empathy for care for others): tamariki develop insight into others' Taha Hinengaro fostering respectful and harmonious relationships.
- Reflection on consequences: tamariki consider the impact of their actions on themselves and others, promoting self-regulation and learning.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How well did you facilitate tamariki to express and reflect on their emotions during the conflict resolution?
2. In what ways did you support tamariki to develop empathy and understand the perspectives of others?

WAIATA: TITIRO KI TE RANGI

(Kaitito: Ngaroma M. Williams)

Titiro ki te rangi
Kahurangi!
Kua whiti mai te rā
Whakamahana ki a Papatūānuku
Hei tipu oranga

Titiro ki te rangi
Kiwikiwi!
Kua moe kē te rā
Kōpatapata te ua
Hei tipu oranga

Look to the sky — it's blue!

The sun is shining bright,
Warming Papatūānuku,
Helping new life grow.

Look to the sky — it's grey!

The sun is fast asleep,
Pitter-patter fall the raindrops,
Bringing new growth once more.



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Ngā Taonga Whakaako Tikanga Māori — Theory and Practice

Early Childhood Education Contexts

MĀRAMATANGA UNDERSTANDING

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
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Te Kāhui Pā Harakeke
Child Well-being
Research Institute

Ako
AOTEAROA

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MĀRAMATANGA UNDERSTANDING

Māramatanga refers to illumination, clarity, and understanding — the moment when insight or comprehension dawns. In teaching and learning, māramatanga represents the journey from unknowing to knowing, where learners gain new knowledge, deeper understanding, and wisdom through meaningful engagement.

It is not simply about acquiring facts but about seeing connections, patterns, and relationships in ways that enrich one's worldview. Māramatanga emerges through dialogue, reflection, and lived experience, where learners and educators co-construct knowledge. It honours both intellect and intuition, encouraging learners to explore, question, and critically engage. In this way, māramatanga supports the development of thoughtful, reflective individuals who can apply their understanding for the collective good.



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these resources



CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: Discovery and Investigation: Science Experiments – Light Exploration

Tamariki explore light and shadow using torches, mirrors, and natural sunlight, observing how objects change under different conditions. Kaiako encourage them to predict, test, and reflect on their observations, connecting scientific discovery with deepening understanding.

Tikanga Practices: Māramatanga is:

- Expressed by the tamariki as they gain new insight through playful exploration, transforming curiosity into understanding.
- Portrayed as tamariki inquire into each other's shadows alongside their kaiako, fostering collective learning and respect.
- Evident in the way tamariki connect their discoveries about light and shadow to the natural world. They recognise the balance between darkness and illumination as part of the cycles of te ao Māori ways of knowing.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How did you support tamariki to move from curiosity to deeper understanding (māramatanga) through observation, questioning, and discovery?
2. In what ways did you connect the interests of tamariki within the exploration of light and shadow to te ao Māori concepts of balance, illumination, and understanding?

CURRICULUM AREA: Art and Creative Expression

During a painting session, kaiako invite tamariki to express how the sunrise makes them feel. As they blend colours and share their thoughts, kaiako connect the light of the sun to māramatanga — the illumination of ideas and emotions that comes through creativity and reflection.

Tikanga Practices: Mātauranga can be seen through:

- Awareness of the sun's light: tamariki notice and reflect on how sunlight affects colours and emotions.
- Reflection: tamariki connect their hinengaro (feelings) and whakaaro (ideas) to the creative process, deepening understanding.
- Expression of insight: tamariki share their interpretations and discoveries with others through art and discussion.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How effectively did you support tamariki to notice, reflect on, and express their insights during the creative activity?
2. How could you deepen this process next time?
3. In what ways did you create opportunities for tamariki to develop māramatanga through observation, reflection, and expression in this activity?

