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:

- Awhi mai, awhi 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!



Scan for pronunciation support

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

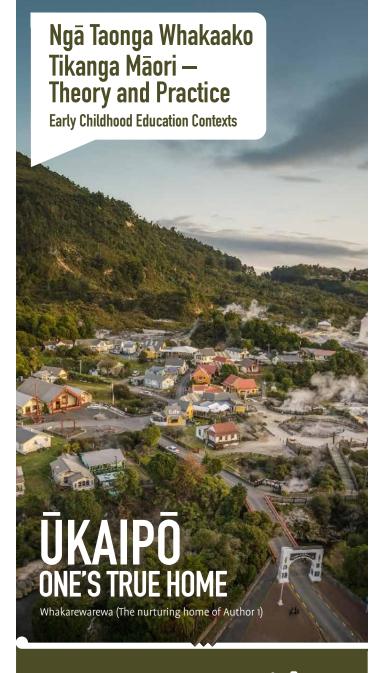
Kia Whakairia

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

ŪKAIPŌONE'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.



Scan to find out more about these resources



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.

Ko Te Arawa, Ko Takitimu, Ko Tainui me Mataatua ngā waka; Ko Tarawera, ko Aoraki, ko Pūtauaki me Wharepūhunga ngā maunga; Ko Rotoruanui-a-Kahumatamomoe te roto, Ko Waitaki, Ko Waikato me Te awa o te Atua ngā awa;

Kia ora te whānau

Ko Ngāti Hurunga Te Rangi, Ko Ngāti Tumatawera, Ko Tuhourangi, Ko Ngāti Whakaue, Ko Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau, Ko Kāi Tahu, Ko Raukawa ki Wharepūhunga 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

- 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.
- Tangata 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?

