

# Raising Tamariki with Reo Māori



**Information Handbook**

**Pregnancy to Infant Years**

**Raising Tamariki  
with Reo Māori**



**Kōrero Māori**

# He Mihi

He mihi tēnei ki te hunga nā koutou tēnei kaupapa i tautoko, i manaaki, kia puta pēnei mai hei rauemi mā ngā mātua me ngā whānau puta noa i te motu: ki a Tomai Morris, ki a Claire Cockburn, ki a Wena Taiŕ, ki a Tai Tahau, ki a Mark Fell, ki a Tairoki Tahau-Hodges. Tēnā koutou katoa.

Nā Hineihaea Murphy rāua ko Pania Tahau ngā kōrero.  
Nā Walter Moala te mahi hoahoa.  
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## FOREWORD

Raising children is an awesome responsibility which affects us all. It is most potent in young parents and grandparents, beginning when a child is able to sense their parents from the womb. This important relationship begins through rhythm, sound and touch. Language is an important part of building this relationship.

As parents and families we choose the language of our future descendants who represent us, our ideas and our values. It is up to us whether the Māori language survives in our homes. There is nobody else 'in the house' but ourselves. In our own representation of the aspirations and ambitions of our forebears, our choices of language today will determine their choices for tomorrow. This, of course, is the essence of whakapapa.

Nāku noa nā

Haami Piripi

**Chief Executive**

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori

## HE KUPU WHAKATAKI

He mahi whakahirahira te mahi whakatupu tamariki. Kua pā te tūturutanga o aua mahi ki te katoa, engari ka ngau pai ki te ngākau o ngā mātua.

Kei rō kōpū kē te tamaiti i te wā ka rongu tuatahi i te mumutanga o ōna mātua me ngā mea o te ao tūroa. Ko te reo he mea tino whakahirahira ki tēnei hononga i waenga i te tamaiti me ōna mātua.

Otirā, mā te reo kōrero o te rā, o te wiki ka puta ngā reanga hou me ō rātou ake reo. Engari, kei a tātou tonu te tikanga mō te oranga o tō tātou reo kei roto i ō tātou kāinga. Kei a wai atu?

Heoi, mā wai rānei ō tātou tikanga, uara hoki e tiaki hei oranga mō ngā whakatupuranga hou? Mā tātou pea hei kaikawe kōrero mō te rā nei - koia tēnei te pūtake o tēnei mea te whakapapa.

Nāku noa nā

Haami Piripi

**Chief Executive**

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori







*A New Beginning*

# He Timatanga Hou



## So, you're going to be a parent ...

Congratulations! This is an exciting time in your life. So much to think and dream about – who will your baby look like, walk like, talk like? We all like to think (perhaps secretly!) that our children will be a little bit like us. Maybe they will have the same coloured eyes, walk with a similar stride, or have the same nose.

But what we want even more is for our children to grow up to be all that they can be – to have the opportunities that we didn't have as children. It is natural for parents to want the best for their children.

We all take it for granted too that our children will reach certain milestones. Walking and talking are a couple of exciting things to look forward to in the early years, especially if this is your first baby.

Walking and talking ... sounds so simple doesn't it? We expect it to just happen, and usually it does. But every child does

this in their own time - not a moment before! Sometimes it takes a bit of planning and encouragement. Hours spent helping baby to crawl – forwards, backwards, upstairs, downstairs ... then standing ... holding on really tightly ... then letting go. Before too long, the first step is taken. It seems to take forever at first, but next thing you know, your baby is walking!

As with walking, you will want your baby to talk ... and that too takes time to happen. Baby will start learning about language very early, even during your pregnancy through the songs you sing and the way you talk. But it will be a little while before your baby is able to say anything that anyone (other than you!) can understand.





You can spend hours coo-ing and aah-ing with baby. You will be so proud when they make a new sound and you'll rejoice with their first word – especially if it sounds anything remotely like 'Māmā' or 'Pāpā'! Like with learning to walk, you will have an important role in helping your baby learn to talk. Every time your baby hears you speaking or singing will be another opportunity for your baby to learn to speak.

### Your baby's most important teacher

As a parent, you have a big effect on how well your child speaks. You are the first and most important language teacher your baby will have. Your voice will be one of, if not the first, that your baby comes to recognise. It will be your voice that your baby responds to. Your baby will try to sound out the words you say. You will probably be the first person who understands what your baby is saying.



Language learning is really important to your baby's development. Children who speak well and have good language skills will learn other things more easily. Because you want your baby to develop to their full potential, it is worthwhile taking the time to think about your baby's language development. Not only how your baby will learn to speak or how you can help, but also how many languages your baby will learn and what those languages will be.

## Raising your baby to speak Māori

Have you thought about raising your child to speak Māori? Māori language is a key part of who we are as Māori and an important part of New Zealand culture. There are lots of benefits in making sure that Māori becomes an everyday language in New Zealand.

If we want Māori language to survive it must be spoken and used by as many people as possible. Those of us that speak Māori have a responsibility to pass it on to our children. The saying 'use it or lose it' is true. Using it with each other and with our children is the only way to make sure that Māori becomes a living and colourful language for future generations.

### He waiata (a song)

(To the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star')

Tīramarama ngā whetū  
Kei te pēhea rā koutou?  
Kei runga ake rā  
He taimana tō rite  
Tīramarama ngā whetū  
Kei te pēhea rā koutou?

Living in New Zealand gives you the perfect opportunity to help your child become a Māori speaker – even if you don't speak Māori yourself. If your baby is Māori, then Māori language is part of who they are. It is their birthright. If your baby is non-Māori, then Māori language can be part of who they are as a New Zealander. You can help your baby grow up to be bilingual.

## What does being 'bilingual' mean?

Being bilingual means being able to speak two languages fluently and naturally. Becoming bilingual and learning to speak Māori doesn't 'just happen' for most of us. It takes careful planning and might mean learning a bit about raising a bilingual child. If you want your baby to speak Māori, the best thing you can do is to start planning now!

Deciding that you want your child to be bilingual is a great first step. It is, perhaps, the most important one. Once you have made this choice, the next thing to think about is how you can make it happen. You'll need a long-term plan. Remember, learning two languages doesn't happen overnight. It takes time to become bilingual. And the best time for the learning to start is before baby is born.

That doesn't mean it's too late to make that choice after baby is born. But the sooner you decide to give your child the gift of bilingualism, the better. You can start putting things in place from that moment on. This book will help you to do that.

Congratulations on becoming a parent.  
Enjoy. Ngā mihi!

**-Tips-**

- Talk and sing in Māori to your baby as early as possible - even during pregnancy.
- Remember, you are the first and most important language teacher your baby will have.

Bathroom - Rūma horoi



