

Puzzles

Panga



Puzzle play involves thinking out problems and using hands and fingers for coordination. Puzzle play is usually done alone, but can be done in cooperation with others.

Puzzles / Panga

Te Whāriki

Puzzle play supports learning across all strands of Te Whāriki. In particular, puzzles support the **Communication strand** as children experience the symbols of their culture including that of numbers and other mathematical concepts. Through the **Exploration strand** children develop working theories about spatial understanding and they learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning.



Puzzle play can help children to

- develop hand–eye coordination
- develop finger and hand muscles
- learn to solve problems
- learn to reason and deal with frustration
- learn to persevere and be patient.



Adults can support children by

- keeping the puzzle area tidy and organised
- allowing them to do the puzzles at their own pace
- taking an interest but not taking over
- accepting that they will make mistakes and letting them know that it's okay
- suggesting different ways of doing things
- talking to them about what they are doing.

Providing for puzzles

Children can work on the floor or at a low table. Display puzzles well and make sure they are in easy reach of the children.

Ideas for puzzles

There needs to be a good range of puzzles for children of all ages and interests including:

- one piece to multi-piece
- from simple to difficult to challenging
- showing a range of subjects and patterns.

