



Ngā pukapuka me te kōrero pūrākau | Books and storytelling

Books and storytelling play an important role in building language and literacy skills from birth onwards. Books and storytelling build tamariki imagination and understanding of themselves, others and their wider world. Sharing and discussing stories strengthens their vocabulary and ability to tell their own stories. Books also help build concepts about print and the written word.

Links to Te Whāriki

Reading and sharing a wide range of books and stories help tamariki make connections between people, places and things in their own and others' worlds (**Belonging | Mana whenua**). Books and storytelling can support tamariki to express feelings and needs (**Wellbeing | Mana atua**) and contribute to their imaginary world (**Exploration | Mana aotūroa**). They also support tamariki retell and create their own stories, expand their vocabulary, and become familiar with print symbols and how books work (**Communication | Mana reo**).





5

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Books and storytelling help tamariki to:

- › learn new and unusual words and meanings
- › connect with their own culture and feel good about themselves
- › see others point of view
- › develop imagination and interests
- › share experiences with other tamariki and adults
- › understand how books work and that print and written symbols can be read.

Adults can support tamariki by:

- › enjoying reading and telling stories with tamariki from infancy, sharing favourite books and stories often
- › including books and stories that reflect their own life and culture as well as others
- › encouraging tamariki to retell and make up stories in their own way, e.g. through dance, acting it out, puppets, digital media
- › listening to their stories and encouraging them to listen to others' stories
- › discussing what they think of books and stories
- › using different voices and intonation, and drawing attention to letters, words, pictures as you read.

You will find further information on books and storytelling for different age groups in Te kōrerorero — Talking together.

Providing for books and storytelling

Display books so that the tamariki can see the covers and select them themselves. Provide board books for infants that they can reach and handle easily. Use carpet, chairs, beanbags or cushions to make cosy spaces to read. Use pre-recorded stories very sparingly – tamariki benefit more from seeing and interacting with you as you read.

Include a diverse range of literature styles – poems, chants, nonsense rhymes, reference books, pakiwaitara / stories, pūrākau / ancient stories, picture books, books in te reo Māori and in home languages. Consider how your book and story selection reflects a range of cultures, family structures and gender roles.

Provide props such as puppets, dress-ups, stones, shells, animals, and children's own illustrations to support storytelling. Choose digital devices, apps, and media that support tamariki to create and tell their own stories.