



Te hangarau matihiko | Digital technologies

Digital technologies are part of the wider world that surrounds young children's lives. Adults play an important role in ensuring that children use digital technologies in healthy and safe ways that contribute to their learning. This means using technologies that encourage children to explore, create, and produce their own work, and empower them as active learners.

Links to *Te Whāriki*

Digital technologies can help with learning across all strands of *Te Whāriki*. They provide opportunities to capture and revisit experiences, express feelings and ideas, and enjoy creating and retelling stories (**Communication | Mana reo**). The ease with which created content can be changed or transformed supports experimentation, playfulness, invention, and problem solving (**Exploration | Mana aotūroa**). Digital technologies enable whānau and communities to be included in children's learning (**Belonging | Mana whenua**).



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Digital technologies can help tamariki to:

- › record their work and achievements
- › create content such as art works, stories, and games
- › think flexibly and develop a sense of wonder
- › revisit and retell past experiences which in turn helps develop memory
- › develop critical thinking skills through reviewing photos or videos.

Adults can support tamariki by:

- › treating digital technologies like you would a paint brush – a tool to achieve something creative rather than a device to entertain or keep tamariki occupied
- › being present with tamariki when they are using digital technologies, discussing what they are seeing or doing
- › modelling and talking to tamariki about the safe use of digital devices
- › trusting tamariki to work digital technologies themselves by providing attentive adult supervision
- › using digital technologies as a means to learn about and record local events, places, and experiences
- › supporting te reo Māori through listening to online waiata, haka, and pūrākau.

Ideas for digital technologies

Choose:

- › devices that can be brought out for a purpose and put away
- › apps that encourage the creation rather than the consumption of content, e.g. an app that enables the user to create animated stories over an app of ready published animated stories
- › devices with camera and video functions (with locked access to other inappropriate functions). Photos and videos provide a way of capturing learning in action and revisiting experiences. Tamariki benefit from being able to reuse play materials and re-enact experiences. They also benefit from being able to watch themselves play.

Providing for digital technologies

Decisions about what digital technologies are used in sessions will depend on the needs and preferences of whānau, ages of children attending, the length of sessions, and how often a playgroup meets.

If photos and videos will be later shared with whānau, remember to get permission first. Make sure there is a shared understanding at your playgroup about taking photos during sessions – e.g; don't take photos, or don't take photos of other people's children without permission.