



## Ngā taputapu rāwekeweke mō te tākaro | Manipulative equipment for play

Manipulative play refers to activities where tamariki move, order, turn, or screw items to make them fit. It allows tamariki to take charge, make decisions and problem-solve, and to develop fine motor skills and coordination.

### Links to *Te Whāriki*

Manipulative play supports children's learning by providing equipment which invites hands-on exploration. Tamariki can learn strategies for active exploration, thinking, reasoning and problem solving | te hīraurau hopanga (**Exploration** | **Mana aotūroa** strand). This type of play encourages curiosity and supports the development of concentration and perseverance. Manipulative play offers opportunities to explore mathematical concepts | he kōrero pāngarau (see the **Communication** | **Mana reo** strand).





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## | Manipulative equipment for play

### Manipulative equipment can help tamariki to:

- › practise making decisions
- › be creative
- › explore and develop understanding of mathematical concepts such as:
  - learning about size, shape, weight, length, height, space
  - learning about sequence, comparison, order, patterns, colours, textures
  - learning to analyse and solve problems
- › develop concentration and perseverance
- › learn about cause and effect
- › practise fine motor skills and coordination.

### Adults can support tamariki by:

- › providing a good range of manipulative equipment and resources
- › talking to them about what they are doing to encourage discussion
- › allowing them to explore at their own pace
- › keeping the area and the resources tidy and attractively displayed.

### Providing for manipulative play

Manipulative play is easy to set up and can happen indoors or out. Provide a range of equipment clearly labelled in storage containers. A group outing could be organised to gather items such as shells and stones. Supervision is needed for items under 5 cm.

### Ideas for equipment

- › threading materials e.g. beads and cotton reels
- › screwing materials e.g. nuts, bolts, and small plastic jars with lids
- › a range of items for sorting and matching colour, shape, and size
- › stacking and connecting toys e.g. interlocking blocks, and magnetic tiles
- › a sensory treasure basket for infants (see Āoturoa card).