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He kohinga tākaro mō te ako | Play ideas for learning

Playgroups are well placed to implement the framework of *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum. Playgroups can empower whānau and children to learn and grow, develop a sense of belonging in their local community, and strengthen relationships. They can give tamariki time, space and support to explore, experiment and try things out. They can offer an environment with interesting play materials and opportunities to try new things.

Links to *Te Whāriki*

He whāriki hei whakamana i te mokopuna, hei kawē i ngā wawata

A whāriki that empowers the child and carries our aspirations



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education



Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

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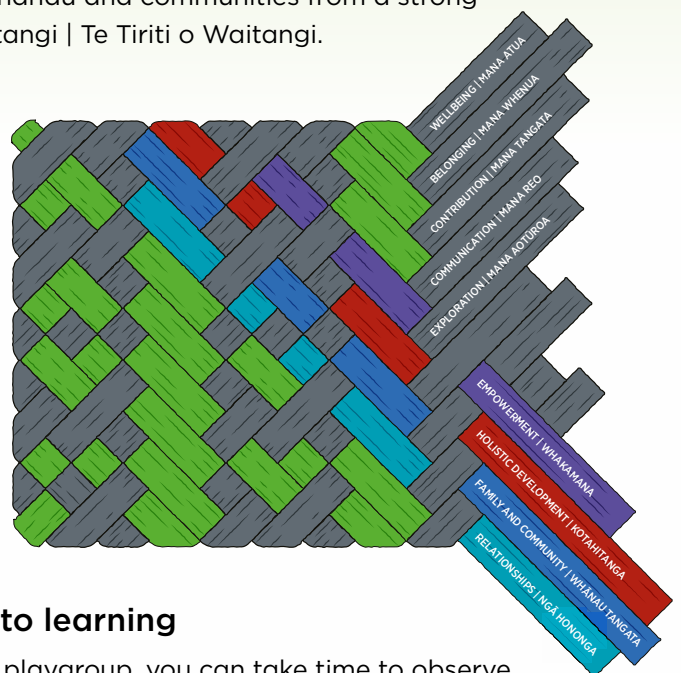
There are playgroups throughout Aotearoa, and each one is unique. A playgroup is shaped by its own context, the people in it, and the needs of whānau and children.

The play ideas in this kit offer suggestions for a wide variety of experiences and opportunities to support children's learning and development. You can look on Te Whāriki Online to find a range of playgroup and whānau resources, with more ideas and information.

The principles, strands, goals and learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki* affirm the identities, languages, and cultures of all children, parents, whānau and communities from a strong bicultural foundation based on The Treaty of Waitangi | Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Tamariki learn when they:

- › find things that capture their interest
- › get involved and spend time playing around with and exploring objects
- › persevere with activities they find difficult or unfamiliar
- › test, share, and talk about their ideas
- › make up new ideas by themselves and with others
- › initiate or take responsibility for their own learning.



Noticing, recognising, and responding to learning

As well as providing a stimulating environment at playgroup, you can take time to observe what tamariki are doing, how they are doing it, and how their play or exploration is changing over time. You can use the principles, strands, goals, and learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki* to:

- › help notice the learning
- › recognise what it might mean
- › plan how you will respond to support and extend learning.

Tamariki can bring different interests to the same experiences. For example, when tamariki play with playdough, one child might explore the different ways they can mould and manipulate the dough (**Exploration | Mana aotūroa**). Another tamariki might share the playdough with others (**Contribution | Mana tangata**). Yet another tamariki might use playdough to act out familiar cultural practices like having a birthday party or preparing kai for a hangi (**Communication | Mana reo**).

Sharing what you notice with each other helps you to understand what learning might be happening for a child or group of children. When adults observe tamariki, and bring knowledge of *Te Whāriki* to that observation, then they are in a very good place to support that child's future learning.