



Te Whaariki: The Early Childhood Curriculum

Te Whaariki is made up of principles, strands and goals which are woven together like the strands of a woven mat (Whaariki). These strands and goals support children's learning and well-being in their early education and care.

The Principles

Empowerment Whakamana

Giving the child the power to learn and grow to become a confident and competent learner

Holistic Kotahitanga

Learning as a whole rather than in separate subjects and areas

Family & Community Whanau Tangata

Making links with the child's family/whanau and community and learning about the wider world

Relationships Nga Honotanga

Learning by developing responsive relationships with people, places and things

The strands

Well-being Mana Atua

Belonging Mana Whenua

Contribution Mana Tangata

Communication Mana Reo

Exploration Mana Aoturoa

What does that mean in practice?

- Their health is promoted;
- Their emotional well-being is nurtured;
- They are kept safe from harm.
- Connecting links with the family and the wider world are affirmed and extended;
- They know they have a place;
- They feel comfortable with routines, customs, and regular events;
- They know the limits and boundaries of acceptable behaviour.
- There are equitable opportunities for learning, irrespective of gender, ability, age, ethnicity, or background;
- They are affirmed as individuals
- They are encouraged to learn with and alongside others.
- They develop non-verbal communication skills for a range of purposes;
- They develop verbal communication skills for a range of purposes;
- They experience the stories and symbols of their own and other cultures;
- They discover and develop different ways to be creative and expressive.
- Their play is valued as meaningful learning and the importance of spontaneous play is recognised;
- They gain confidence in, and control of their bodies;
- They learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning;
- They develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical, and material worlds.

