

Building baby's brain

Serve and return is the back-and-forth, focused interaction between you and your tamariki. It's something you can do every day to build healthy tamariki that are ready to play, explore, and learn. It's never too early to give it a try, even from the day pēpi is born!

1 Watch and listen

Watch and listen for the "serve". This is pēpi showing an interest in something and then seeking to share it with you.



2 Show interest

Show pēpi their thoughts and feelings have been heard and understood. Make a sound or gesture, smile and nod, bring an object closer, or say something like "I see!".



3 Name it

Use the name of the thing, person, action, or feeling to help build the language connection. Pēpi will learn best when you use the language you know best.



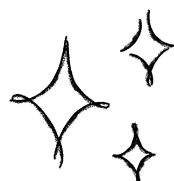
4 Take turns talking

Keep it going, allowing lots of time for pēpi to respond. Waiting for their response helps them develop their own ideas and independence.



5 Let them set the pace

Whenever possible, try and let pēpi take the lead and end the interaction when they're ready to move on. This gives them a chance to explore their world at their own pace.



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