

What do the six tohu whānau mean at this stage of our lives with pēpi?

Love and Warmth

- Remembering our pēpi will want to make some decisions for themselves now. We can let them practice choosing between two things
- Sharing lots of love and time with our tamaiti, playing, talking, reading, singing and having fun together
- Seeing the funny side of things

Talking and Listening

- Realising they understand much more than they can say
- Getting down to their level, speaking face to face, using clear language
- Sharing waiata, stories and pukapuka every day

Guidance and Understanding

- Tantrums are normal for them at this stage—they still don't have the words they need to express their strong feelings
- Expecting that pēpi will not understand other people's needs and feelings yet
- They will like saying 'No!'. Even when they mean 'Yes'—it's all about them feeling they can make decisions themselves.

Limits and Boundaries

- Having a few family rules that all the adults in the whare agree with and follow
- Staying calm and firm when our tamaiti is misbehaving
- Remembering to go shopping with our tamaiti only when they are fed, rested and well

Consistency and Consequences

- If it was 'No' yesterday, it's still 'No' today
- Choosing our battles—we can't force our tamariki to eat or sleep, we need them to co-operate
- Modelling the behaviour we want them to copy

A Structured and Secure World

- Remembering a loving and trusting relationship is the best foundation we can give tamariki
- Balancing daily activities so there's a mixture of quiet and active times
- Being patient—they are learning and we are their kaiako.