

Kaitiaki pēpi

Mana

Pēpi is born into this world with mana inherited from their whānau and tīpuna. Mana is translated as power, prestige or supernatural force.

Mana exists in all of us, right from conception and birth. Everyone has mana to keep themselves safe.

Each pēpi has mana and our job as pakeke (adults) is to help build on that potential when pēpi enters this world.

Our tīpuna respected pēpi and tamariki from birth, acknowledging and respecting their mana. He mana tā ia tamaiti. Each child is born from greatness and that's mana.

Tapu

When māmā is giving birth she is considered tapu. To be tapu during childbirth is to be under the realm and protection of the atua. When pēpi are born they are born tapu.

Tapu is translated as sacred, restricted and forbidden. Tapu is also associated with the atua being as pure as possible, just like when pēpi is born.

Oriori

Oriori are waiata that tell stories. They might be about ancestors' journeys, whakapapa or the aspirations whānau have for their new mokopuna.

Some are sung to soothe pēpi to sleep, others are to welcome pēpi into their new world.

Oriori or lullabies can tell stories that mark events like pregnancy, birth and other important milestones in life.

