Kaitiaki pēpi

Whakapapa

Whakapapa is what connects us to our ancestors. It links us to whānau, hapū, iwi and marae. It's never too early for pēpi to learn about their whakapapa.

Whakapapa is about intergenerational wisdom and helps pēpi to understand all of the gifts, skills and talents that they inherit from their ancestors.

Whakapapa can be introduced in different ways, through waiata, stories, carvings, art and photos. To help pēpi understand where they fit in their whānau, use words like:

- **tuakana**
- **teina**
- **tungāne**
- **tuahine**
- **koro**
- **kuia**



When pēpi hears whakapapa recited, it helps develop memory skills and builds their sense of identity and belonging.



Wahakura

Wahakura are sleeping pods woven with harakeke for pēpi to safely co-sleep with parents and kaitiaki in shared spaces.

Like waha, wahakura support pēpi to feel close to whānau when they sleep, while keeping them safe.

When māmā is hapū, all whānau can join together to make a wahakura for pēpi. This can be a great bonding activity and a way for others to help parents prepare for the arrival of pēpi.