

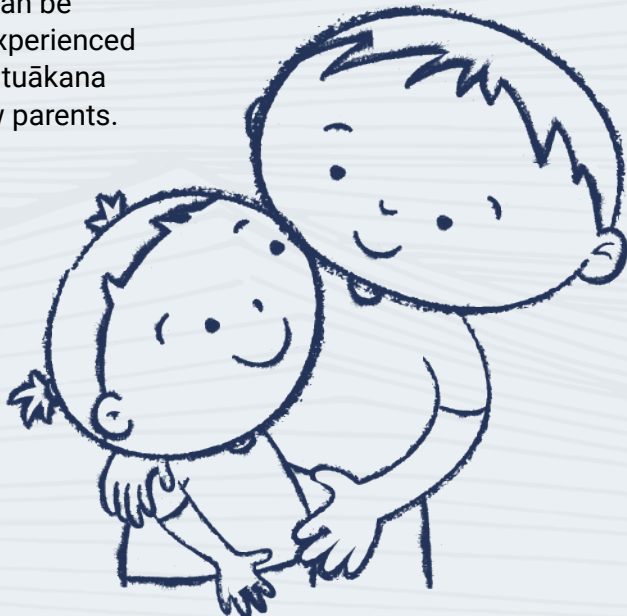
# Kaitiaki tamaiti

## Tuakana teina

Tuakana, teina, and their plural forms tuākana and tēina, are Māori terms describing relationships between siblings and cousins, and wider whānau relationships – tuākana being the elder and tēina the younger. Tuākana can have a powerful impact as role models and often they will guide, support and look out for their tēina.

Traditional roles on the marae, such as whaikōrero and karanga, are tuākana responsibilities. In some cases, it's not just about being the elder. It can also be about who holds skills and expertise in an area.

This concept also can be seen where more experienced parents may act as tuākana to help support new parents.



## Te reo Māori

Tōku reo, tōku ohooho  
My language, my awakening.

Te reo Māori is important for our tamariki. Tamariki who live in bilingual homes can distinguish between two languages by watching lips and facial movements from as young as four months. Pēpi will be familiar with the language their whānau spoke during hapūtanga.

Kia kaha tātou ki te kōrero Māori  
– ahakoa he iti, he pounamu.