

Ngā taonga tākaro

Playdough is a great way for tamariki to practise their fine motor skills. They can poke, pound, roll and squash it or use some sticks, shells or plastic cutlery to cut and shape the dough.

Kōrero with them about all of the things they see in and around your whare. Look for different shapes, sizes, colours and textures. Use kupu like rahi, iti, āhuahanga, koi, porowhita, tapatoru, huarākau, huawhenua, kōhatu and rau. This is all early maths learning.

Fill an old bag with a variety of toys and safe household items for them to investigate – nothing smaller than a credit card. Lids to turn, bits that pop up or can be taken apart and joined back together, Velcro™ and zips.



Pretend play is an easy way to have fun together. Use it to teach whānau values and routines – you can tunu kai, have picnics, or bath and settle toys down for a moe. Or add in some kākahu, pōtae and kete and pretend away.

Notice what tamaiti is interested in and teach the words that go with it by describing out loud what's happening. You can pretend you're talking to someone on the phone as you share in detail what they are up to.

Waiata kōhungahunga

Any age or stage is a good time for waiata. Here's a fun song to sing about the big whale. It will get everyone up and active and has great actions for tamariki to copy.

Tohorā nui

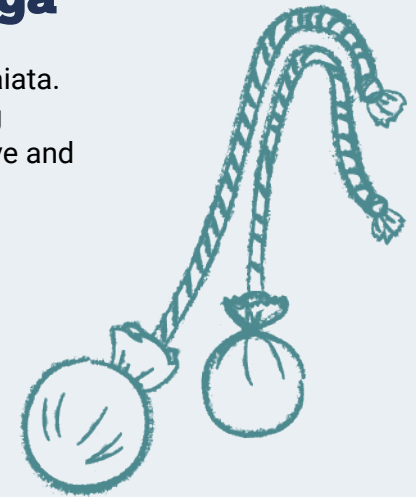
Tohorā roa

Tohorā tino mōmona

Tohorā puhapuha

Whiore piupiu

Tohorā kau ana te moana e



It's fun to vary the speed in this waiata too – slowing it down or speeding it up!



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