

# Kaitiaki tamaiti

## Tatau pounamu

Traditionally, tatau pounamu was a peace agreement between warring hapū and iwi.

Rangatira would hui and negotiate with the warring parties to try and close the door on past troubles and restore their relationships. Some tatau pounamu involved the gifting of taonga, perhaps a mere pounamu to bring about lasting peace.

In today's context, the idea of tatau pounamu might be a way for us to think about how we support and guide tamariki, especially at times when their behaviour is challenging us.

If you have whānau who can support you through challenging times, lean on them if you feel overwhelmed or anxious. Especially if you are worried about how you might respond to the challenging behaviour of your tamaiti.

It works best to negotiate whānau limits and boundaries when everyone is calm.



## Hohou te rongo

The aim of tatau pounamu is to negotiate a peace agreement, which is known as hohou te rongo.

Just like our tīpuna, we want our relationships to be peaceful and well balanced. Not just with our tamariki but with our partner and other whānau members. If there has been raruraru or relationships have become strained, it's important to restore the calm and the mana of the relationship through hohou te rongo.

This practice can help us as mātua to recognise when we may need a break or to apologise for our actions or words. Remember to awhi and give tamariki a hug after a disagreement or challenging situation.

Remember, love, warmth and gentle guidance helps keep everyone's mana intact.



Āta kōrero – give clear instructions.  
Āta whakarongo – listen carefully.