

Whānau say

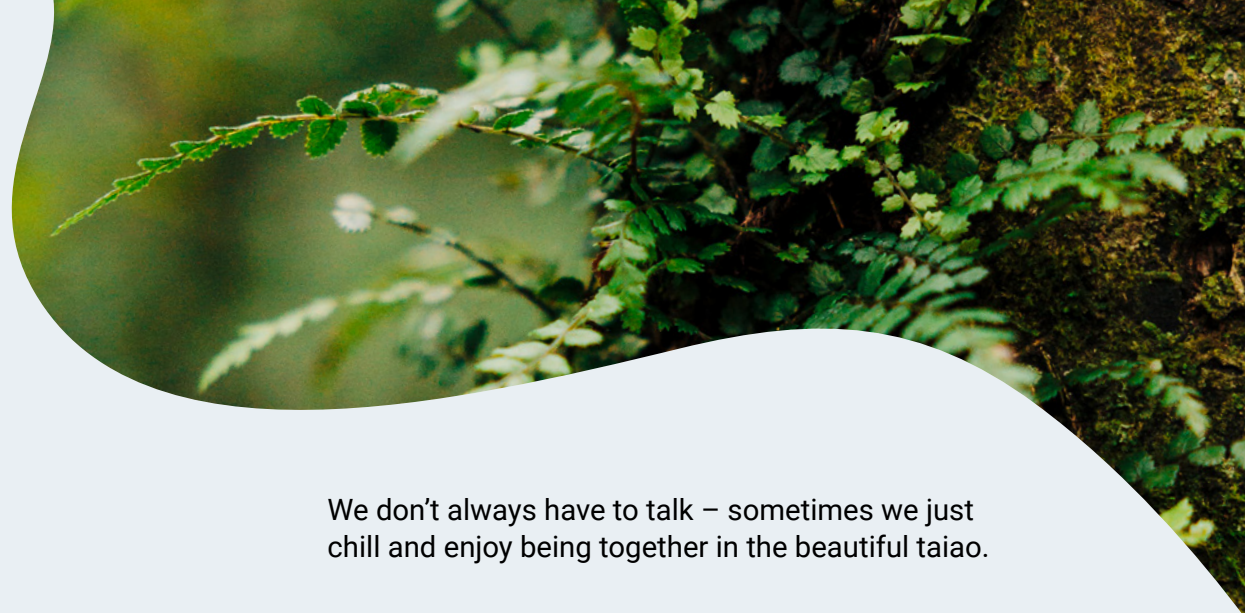
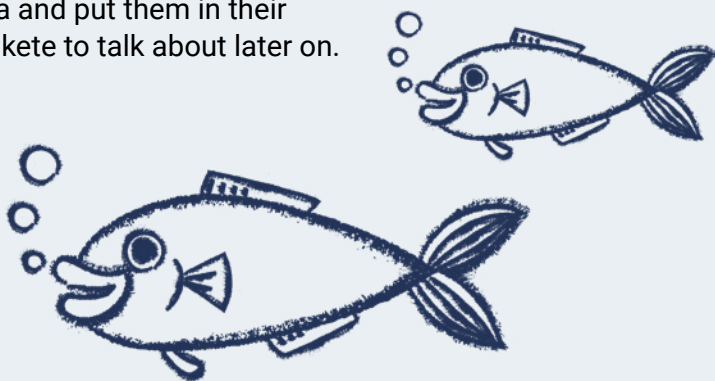
Our tamaiti is very curious. When we're out and about, we often play little games like "Kei hea te kōhanga?" and "Kei hea te papa tākaro?" Playing these games encourages their observation skills and curiosity, and strengthens their thinking and talking.

They learn and remember best when it's related to what they're doing. If our tamaiti is getting dressed, we say things like, "Sit down to put on your tōkena", "Ringaringa ki runga", or "Taha mauī, taha matau". With lots of practice and repetition our tamaiti won't need these prompts because they'll have become part of their memory.

They're starting to remember past events and things about those events. Like when we go to the moana, our tamaiti remembers where they found that big shell or the rock pool they saw the fish in.

At the moana, we talk with them about kaimoana, shells, sand or waves.

We might build in the sand or look for taonga and put them in their own little kete to talk about later on.



We don't always have to talk – sometimes we just chill and enjoy being together in the beautiful taiao.

Our tamaiti is getting better at recognising and imagining people, things, events and concepts they're familiar with. This is why they can tell us, for example, "Shoe stuck", "This way Aunty's."

Talking about what they see, hear and smell helps them remember things because their attention is already on the activity and it gets them using their other senses too. They remember what captures their attention, rather than what we try to intentionally teach them.

It's really hard work remembering things. Our tamaiti needs rest and a good night's moe to help their brain hardwire things into their memory. So when we plan stuff, we make sure that we plan some moe time for them too.

