

Whānau say

Just like when they were younger, we regularly check our home to make sure it's safe for our tamaiti, and we always know where they are, outside or inside.

We put lighters, matches and any dangerous or poisonous stuff out of sight and well out of reach.

Supporting tamariki to be bilingual means we kōrero, kōrero, kōrero! We use talking games and waiata and make it fun. If our tamaiti gets mixed up, we don't say, "Kāo, kei te hē koe." We just say "Āe" and then say the right words back to them.

Language learning is easier when you're young. Learning te reo Māori helps our tamaiti learn about their culture. We ask them, "Kei te aha koe i te rā nei? He aha te waiata o te rā?"

We have set places where our tamaiti can help themselves to paper, pens, crayons and pencils anytime. And they know our whare rules about where it's okay to do writing and drawing.



They're as curious as ever and keen to explore and experiment. While they understand more about safety, we still need to be firm with our boundaries and one step ahead of them to know they're safe.

They think they're all grown up, but with all their new skills and not much self-control yet, things can get dangerous. They climb, open doors and lids, turn keys and... watch out – they are quick!

Walking or riding bikes to the park is a great way to use up all that energy. It can be hard to keep up with them! "Auē, tatari ki a mātou."

We give them lots of time to play with other tamariki and if we need to we help them to play cooperatively. We notice and talk to them about all the friendly things they do with the other kids.

"I like how you asked for a turn on the bike, and when you gave your cousin the hose to water some plants too. Great sharing."

