

Ngā tohu whānau

There are 6 things that promote a strong relationship between parents, whānau and their tamaiti. In these months, they might look like this.

Love and warmth

- Make time to do things together with our tamaiti.
- Give them the cuddles and affection they still need even though they're growing more independent.
- Give them positive feedback about what they're doing well.



Talking and listening



- Keep talking with our tamaiti. Include them in whānau conversations.
- Share funny stories, jokes and games with them. It's fun and builds creativity and imagination.
- Listen and respond to their many questions with simple factual answers and explanations.

Guidance and understanding

- Help our tamaiti make friends in our neighbourhood and at the early learning service.
- Talk about what happens when we visit different places so they know what we expect.
- Encourage them to think and talk about their feelings.



You can now have full conversations with your tamaiti and share jokes with each other. They know who most of their whānau are and many in their wider whānau. They know how to behave in different places, like the marae, kōhanga, or visiting the doctor.

They can take on small responsibilities and make independent choices, but they still need structure, routine and whānau rules to guide and help them to feel safe.

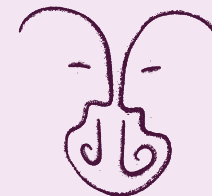
Limits and boundaries



- Respect their boundaries – don't expect tamaiti to hug or kiss everyone they meet.
- Ask for their ideas about whānau rules and make sure we all agree.

Consistency and consequences

- Use warnings before consequences, "Keep your scooter on the path or you'll need to walk."
- Give consequences in a calm and reasonable voice – we want them to learn from their mistakes, not pay for them!



A structured and secure world



- Try to stick to our whānau routines as much as we can.
- Balance their days with variety – play and activities indoors/outdoors, active/calm, noisy/quiet, messy/structured.
- Give our tamaiti more responsibility for themselves and the household.