

Parenting is easy... yeah right!

Everyone has their own way of parenting their tamariki. Often it comes from the way we were treated when we were growing up.

Look at these three styles of parenting and think about what styles you use and when.



The rock

Rock parents can be inflexible and sometimes way too hard, like a rock. This style uses strict rules and harsh consequences to try get tamariki to behave.

"I'm the boss and I know what's good for you!"

So tamariki might:

- get scared and only react out of fear, not respect
- copy the behaviour, and bully and hit other kids.



The paper

Paper parents can be 'hands-off' or too overprotective. Sometimes this style may give in too easily and crumple, just like a piece of paper.

"I'm not going to tell you again, this is your last, last warning... oh alright then, just have it and stop your grizzling!"

So tamariki might:

- copy the behaviour and give up easily when they have a problem
- have less respect for other people's rights or feelings.



The tree

Somewhere in between is what works best. The tree way is flexible, but strong and steady. This way of parenting watches, explains and encourages.

"It's nearly tea time but let's have another swing while it's still warm outside."

"I know you want another lolly but it's moe time. Āpōpō."

So tamariki are more likely to:

- be confident to offer their ideas
- respect other people's feelings
- learn to solve their own problems.