

Whānau say

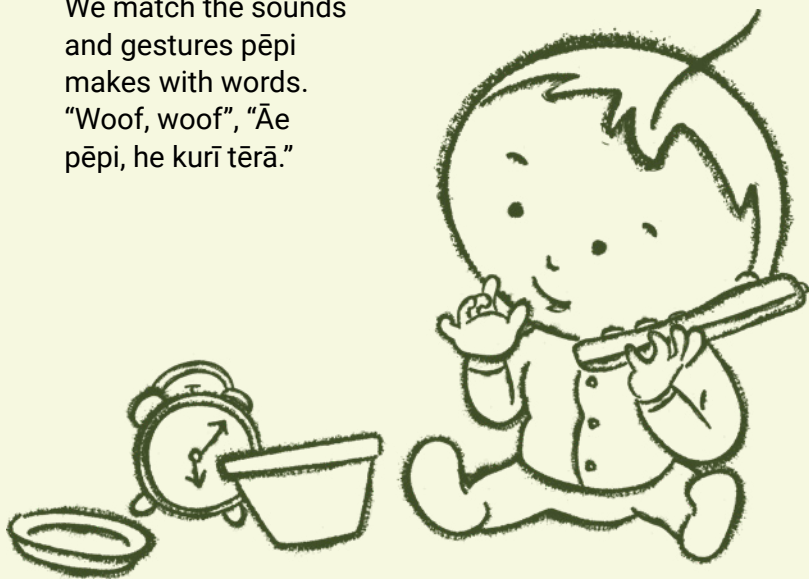
Well, what an adventure we've had with our pēpi. We are still all learning a year on. Some ups and some downs but we are still here. Thanks to everyone around us.

We have ways to keep the kāinga safe but interesting, having spaces just for pēpi – a kitchen drawer, cupboard or low shelf.

Pēpi learns so much by just watching us – like picking up the phone and starting to kōrero. This always makes us laugh.

We have to decide what is okay for pēpi to explore. We try hiding or putting what's not okay out of sight.

We match the sounds and gestures pēpi makes with words. "Woof, woof", "Āe pēpi, he kurī tērā."



The best way to make language connections in their brain is to kōrero, kanohi ki te kanohi.

We help pēpi to learn the kupu that match what they're doing, it's called parallel talk. "You're looking for the little button on the phone that makes the bleep sound."

We have a collection of objects around the whare that pēpi can explore safely. There are bits to spin, holes to poke, buttons to press and lids to open and close.

A simple walk along the awa gives pēpi so much to experience, and strengthens the connections in their hinengaro.

If we go to parties where there's lots going on, we agree beforehand on our whānau tikanga to keep pēpi safe.

We mihimihi and praise pēpi in te reo Māori. "Ka pai ō mahi", "Tau kē koe". We also give instructions – haere mai, haere atu, e noho, e tū, kia tūpato, waihotia, tohatoha, homai.