Programme Evaluation

Taonga mō ngā Tamariki – Treasures for our Children

- Strategies to enhance safe and secure relationships with our tamariki.
- Supporting parents and caregivers to build positive, close connections with tamariki through talking, singing, reading, and playing games together.
- A book bag with games, learning resources and books to use to implement the strategies learnt.

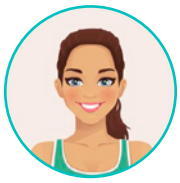
Taonga mō ngā Tamariki is an empowering and capacity-building programme for parents, grandparents and caregivers. It is designed to walk alongside participants as they strengthen their understanding, confidence and skills to nurture the wellbeing of their tamariki. It is both empowering and gently challenging – encouraging participants to reflect deeply, grow courageously, and enhance safe, nurturing connections with their tamariki.

The programme is delivered in carefully designed segments, with portions of knowledge woven together with reflective activities. This structure supports participants to take in new learning at a manageable pace while allowing space to explore emotions and thoughts that may arise. It recognises that parenting/caregiving is complex and deeply personal – and creates a safe, respectful environment where whānau feel supported, not judged.



"The programme shows economic benefits even if only a few prison sentences are avoided."

Each session connects practical information with real-life experience. The first session explores the basic biology of bonding – how a predictable, engaging and loving home environment supports brain development, emotional security and lays the foundation for lifelong wellbeing. This learning affirms the vital role of parents and caregivers, helping them see how their everyday actions can create a sense of safety and connection that allows their tamariki to thrive. It also helps parents and caregivers see the beauty and value of what they already bring to their tamariki – strengthening their sense of confidence, purpose and connection.



"A small investment in project costs can deliver significant social and economic benefits."

The second session focuses on seeing tamariki as life-long learners and explores the many benefits of sharing books and stories together. It affirms that learning does not just happen in the classroom – it happens everywhere, every day and throughout life. It acknowledges the whare as the tamariki(s) first and most profoundly influential learning environment, emphasising the importance of creating a safe and secure space supported by consistent routines and rhythms. At the heart of this session is the belief that one of the greatest gifts we can offer tamariki is to nurture and protect their identity as lifelong learners. We do this by upholding their mana – creating space, shame-free environments where curiosity is welcomed, mistakes are seen as part of learning, and tamariki feel confident to explore who they and what they are capable of. By making space for storytelling, shared reading, and everyday moments of wonder, participants learn how to strengthen their tamariki (s) sense of self, belonging and potential.

The third session brings everything together. It offers a space for participtants to reflect on the journey they have taken in the programme – the learning, the challenges, the growth, and the connections made along the way. It is a time wānanga – to share whakaaro, honour each other's insights that have taken place along the way and acknowledge the impact of the kaupapa on themselves and for their tamariki.

Taonga mō ngā Tamariki helps participants see the mana they hold – and the deep, positive impact they can have on the growth and wairua of their tamariki.

The Taonga mō ngā Tamariki programme is currently delivered in the Department of Corrections: Ara Poutama Aotearoa sites across Aotearoa; both prison and community probation. It has also been delivered in the past to participants through Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua, the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court and Odyssey House.

Our whakataukī

He tūāpapa māhorahora e tūtika ai te tamaiti.

A generous foundation for a child to become who they need to.