

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY/AREA: Years 7–8

Nurturing, Belonging and Emotional Security

Ākonga mentor younger peers in social-emotional activities, offering guidance and support. They model care, patience, and respect. Ūkaipō is demonstrated through nurturing relationships across the classroom community.

Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- **Aroha:** Ākonga support younger peers with patience and kindness, embodying the nurturing spirit of Ūkaipō within tuakana–teina relationships, cultivating empathy and emotional strength in others.
- **Kaitiakitanga:** Older ākonga guide emotional well-being in the group, modelling care and responsibility for the collective's harmony, ensuring everyone feels respected and included together.
- **Mātauranga:** Through mentoring, ākonga learn that belonging and leadership are intertwined—both strengthen community and sustain the spirit of Ūkaipō, grounding them in purpose and connection.

Kaiaiko: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you guide older ākonga to take on nurturing or supportive roles with peers or younger tamariki?
2. In what ways do you model care, patience, and emotional intelligence?
3. How do you help ākonga see the connection between belonging and leadership?



KARAKIA TĪMATATANGA

Ko te Mauri

Ko te mauri o Ranginui e tū ake nei
Ko te mauri o Papatūānuku e takoto nei
Ko te mauri o Rongo e kōkiri nei

Koia rā te mauri e kawe nei i mātou, Kōkiri!

From the essence of Ranginui above, Form the essence of
Papatūānuku below

It is the mauri of Rongo that guides us today. Go Forth!



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KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Kia Whakairia

Kia whakairia te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Kia turuki whakataha ai

Haumi ē, Hui ē, tāiki e!

Restrictions are moved aside, so the pathway is clear,

To return to everyday activities, Enriched, unified
and blessed.



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Ngā Taonga Whakaako Tikanga Māori – Theory and Practice

Primary School Contexts

AOTEAROA



ŪKAIPŌ ONE'S TRUE HOME



Te Kāhui Pā Harakeke
Child Well-being
Research Institute



Authors: Ngaroma M. Williams, Tracy Dayman, Lana R. Williams, 2025.

ŪKAIPŌ

ONE'S TRUE HOME

Ūkaipō represents the deep connection to one's true home — the place that nourishes, anchors, and strengthens the spirit. It is where a person draws their identity, belonging, and purpose.

Ūkaipō is not just a physical location; it is the source of emotional, cultural, and spiritual sustenance, where one is valued, has a place, and can contribute meaningfully to the collective. For Māori, having a secure connection to Ūkaipō is essential for well-being, identity, and resilience. When individuals are grounded in their Ūkaipō, they stand strong as whole beings, empowered to fulfil their roles, uphold their responsibilities, and support the vitality of their whānau, hapū, and iwi.



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CURRICULUM ACTIVITY/AREA: Years 1–3

Nurturing, Belonging and Emotional Security

Tamariki gather in a quiet reading corner with familiar objects and books, sharing stories with peers and kaiako. They feel safe and supported. Ūkaipō is applied as tamariki experience belonging and comfort in the classroom.

Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- **Whanaungatanga:** Tamariki share stories in a calm space, connecting through laughter and listening, building trust and comfort within their classroom whānau, where belonging naturally grows.
- **Manaakitanga:** Kaiako nurture each child's sense of belonging by noticing emotional needs, offering warmth, reassurance, and genuine care, ensuring every tamaiti feels valued and seen.
- **Māramatanga:** Familiar routines and objects anchor tamariki, supporting emotional security and a sense of identity grounded in their Ūkaipō, fostering calm, confident engagement in learning.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you create a calm, predictable environment where tamariki feel valued and secure?
2. In what ways do you affirm each child's identity and sense of belonging?
3. How do you notice and respond to emotional needs during daily routines?

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY/AREA: Years 4–6

Nurturing, Belonging and Emotional Security

Tamariki reflect on family and whakapapa through journals or creative activities, sharing with peers if comfortable. They discuss connections to identity and home. Ūkaipō is enacted as tamariki develop a sense of belonging and personal connection.

Tikanga Practices: Ūkaipō can be applied through:

- **Whakapapa:** Tamariki explore family connections through journals, drawings, or kōrero, strengthening pride in their identity and links to home, weaving stories that affirm who they are.
- **Mōhiotanga:** Reflective activities encourage tamariki to recognise shared values and experiences, deepening empathy and collective understanding within their classroom, nurturing inclusive relationships and cultural respect.
- **Rangatiratanga:** Kaiako empower tamariki to express their stories confidently, fostering ownership of their identity and voice within the learning environment, affirming their worth and personal agency.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you integrate identity and whakapapa learning into everyday classroom life?
2. What opportunities do you provide for tamariki to share about their home or whānau connections?
3. How do you promote respect and empathy through group reflections and storytelling?

*Kia ora e te whānau
Ko Aoraki te mauka teitei
Ko Waitaki te awa
Ko Te Waipounamu
te whenua
Ko Ngāi Tahu te iwi.*

