

Talking Matters is all about building Language Rich Environments (LRE) for tamariki in the first 1,000 days. We know that when tamariki participate in LRE in their early years, their innate potential as competent, confident and creative communicators can be realised. The importance of LRE is backed not only by Western science, but is also grounded in indigenous knowledge.

Talking Matters draws on diverse sources of knowledge, strategies, resources and data to support everyone to play their part in building LREs for tamariki in Aotearoa. We partner with whānau, communities, practitioners, ECEs, iwi and government to co-design strategies that are specific and relevant to each context.

Early childhood teachers are in a privileged position to make a huge difference in the lives of tamariki. Kaiako already know a lot about responsive interactions and have access to some awesome resources offering science-based, accessible guidelines for promoting rich language. Talking Matters supports teachers to find strategies that work in their context to implement Te Whāriki with a focus on early language.

### A Talking Matters programme will usually include these ingredients



#### What ECE partners need to participate in a Talking Matters programme

Talking Matters operates on a partnership model. Educators are agents in the change they are making with our support. Therefore, motivation and buy-in are key drivers of success.

Talking Matters brings innovative technology and resources to drive evidence-based improvements in the language environment and teacher practice.

Our experience indicates that in order to generate sustainable change, kaiako need time to engage with the emerging data, learn and reflect on the change they are making. There is some non-contact time required to get the best from the programme, although most of the action happens during normal teaching hours.

# Delivery design - activities



Whakarite

## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND MAPPING THE JOURNEY

**40 min - 1 hour hui (whole team)**

We come together as a team to map our journey towards a common goal: ensuring tamariki have equitable access to responsive interactions.



Te Rapunga

## DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT - *NOTICING AND INVESTIGATING*

**2 X LENA recordings | 1 X 30 min data debrief (whole team)**

Kaiako complete Tiakina te Kōrero online webinar individually or as a team. Using LENA, teams are supported to collect and analyse language data, to determine if tamariki have equitable access to responsive interactions.

## OBSERVATIONS TO DIVE INTO THE “WHY”

At this stage you will have a good idea about how much language is going on throughout the day and how equitable children’s access is to it. Now it’s time to figure out why: Who is missing out? Is there an age/gender/disposition pattern? Why are interactions lower at certain times of the day? Is there less language outdoors or in certain spaces?



Te Kitenga

## SO WHAT? PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION - *COLLABORATIVE SENSE MAKING*

**1 hour session (whole team)**

By now, you have good data on your language environment and insights into its strengths and areas for improvement. In this session, we bring it all together and decide what you want to focus on.

The question of the day is: *What is the most meaningful change you can make to get you closer to our destination: a language-rich environment where tamariki have access to responsive interactions?*

By the end of this session you will have:

- Selected an area of change
- Ideated some initial change ideas.



Te Whaingā

## TEST AND TRIAL CHANGE IDEAS - *PRIORITISING TO TAKE ACTION*

Now is the time to implement the change, while observing the results and making tweaks to the change idea as needed. With the support of your Talking Matters facilitator you will reflect on what change ideas you want to abandon, adapt and adopt.

**2 X LENA Recordings**

## PADDLE, PADDLE, PADDLE!

Once the team has adopted a language strategy that is working, we will measure your language environment again and see if there is any shift in the language indicators that are linked with responsive interactions and equity.



Te Whiwhinga

## CELEBRATE GAINS AND THINK ABOUT NEXT STEPS - *MONITORING FOR EVALUATION*

**1 hour session (whole team)**

Time to celebrate your gains and reflect on the journey, what you learned and how you plan to apply it to your everyday practice.

Our experience tells us that the biggest long-term change for teams comes from jointly focusing on language. The learnings and experiences from this journey usually stay with kaiako, leading to more intentional interactions and an enhanced equity lens.



Te Rawenga

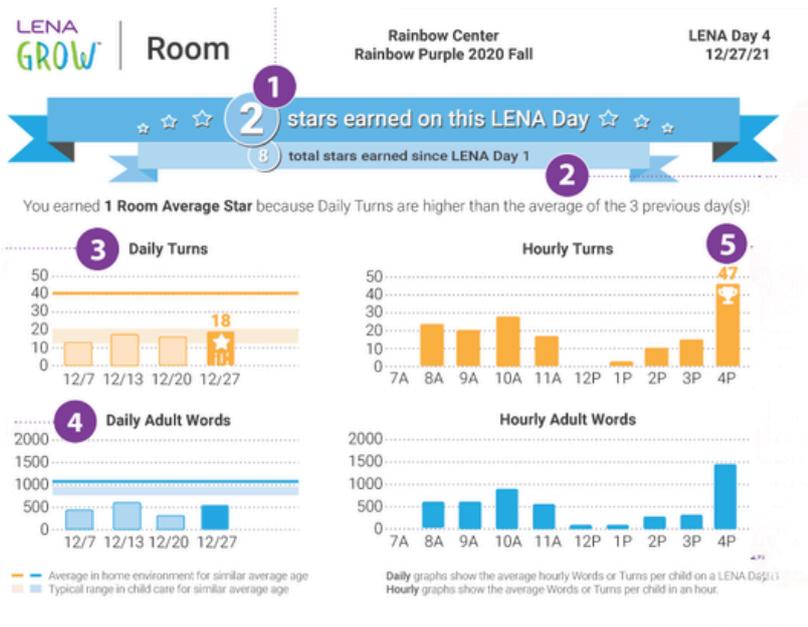


# Two Key Foci

During the early phase of the journey, Kaiako engage with the content of Tiakina te Kōrero highlighting two key focus areas for creating language rich environments. The overarching goal of a Talking matters partnership is for all tamariki in a centre to have access to responsive interactions and a language-rich environment. The journey towards achieving this goal will vary, depending on their data analysis for their context. The “areas of action” teachers choose to focus on drive positive outcomes for tamariki. Below are data examples for each area.



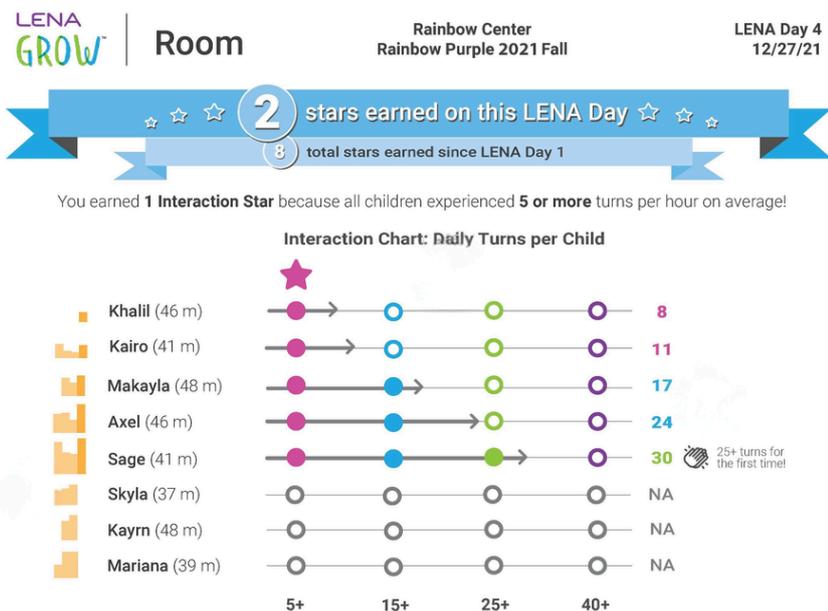
## Language Learning Environment Data



Optimising the language learning environment (physical environment, resources, teacher placement, routines, etc.) to increase opportunities for interaction.



## Equity Data



Understand how different tamariki participate in the language environment.

Are some tamariki missing out?

Understanding and meeting their needs so that everyone’s language thrives.

Daily Turns per Child shows this LENA Day's average hourly turns for a child. Gold bars to the left of child's name show previous LENA Days compared to this LENA Day (darker gold).