

Partnering for Impact with Talking Matters

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talking matters

Talking Matters exists to improve life outcomes through rich early language.



Why does literacy matter?

Literacy is the foundation for achievement generally.



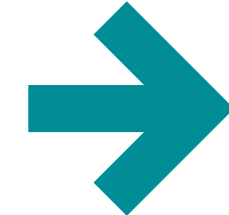
High levels of literacy

- Drive educational success
- Improve health outcomes
- Directly impact income levels
- Strengthen cultural identity
- Promote better mental health
- Promote widespread participation in economic, cultural, social and political life



Low levels of literacy

- Are prevalent in children with speech, language and communication needs
- Are a predictor of criminal activity and incarceration
- Suppress a country's GDP



If you start ahead, you stay ahead.

Rich Early
Language is the
bedrock of
Literacy



Harvard's Centre on the Developing Child has led the research for 30+ years

Harvard identifies 5 key scientific concepts that are the building blocks of child development.

80% of neural connections are made in the first 1,000 days from conception and brain architecture is powered by responsive, back & forth interactions, aka Serve and Return.

- 1 Brain Architecture
- 2 Serve and Return
- 3 Reduction of Toxic Stress
- 4 Executive Function and Self-Regulation
- 5 Resilience

The science is clear.

Serve and Return literally builds babies' brains.

Literacy is built on a foundation of Rich Early Language.



A Rich Language Environment is one where responsive interactions thrive.



The REL Ecosystem

Talking Matters operates at the core of the Rich Early Language ecosystem in Aotearoa New Zealand. We reach into diverse settings across multiple sectors.

Our Theory of Change

Our Vision

All children in Aotearoa thrive as confident, competent and creative communicators.

Our Mission

Improving quality of life outcomes through rich early language.



Our Theory of Change

If, based on these principles...

Ko toku reo toku mapihi maurea - Language is precious taonga

Whanaungatanga - We build robust relationships

Akoranga - Teaching and learning are reciprocal

Mana Motuhake - Whānau and practitioners are agents of change

We use these tools and strategies...

Co-designing pathways for change

Capability Building

Data for Change and Improvement

Language Planning

Community Building

Enabling connections

To deploy these activities...

Cycles of learning and change for educators and whānau supporters

Data collection and analysis

Journey mapping and reflection

He Waka Kōrero - Exploring language development through mātauranga Māori

We will achieve these outcomes...

Increased serve and return

Enriched language environments

Enhanced wellbeing

Which will generate...

Practice Change for whānau, whānau supporters and educators

Systems Change - whereby Decision Makers and Communities prioritise the early years

So ultimately, more children in Aotearoa experience language-rich environments (LRE) in their first 1,000 days.



Data to understand, to improve, and to measure

Working with early language experts, we have defined the key conditions of a language-rich environment in which responsive interactions truly thrive.

We support partners to analyse their environment against these indicators, to respond to their own data, and to measure the positive change their actions drive.



We have a proven methodology to achieve practice change.

We partner with the adults in children's lives
– whānau, communities, education, health & social services.

We equip them with tools and capabilities to build and maintain language rich environments.

Our partners adopt behaviour change that is meaningful,
doable, measurable and sustainable.

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