



**Me kōrero ki āu ake
mahi, ki āu ake
whakaaro.**

**Talk about what
you are doing and
thinking.**

Talk about what you are doing and thinking.

We all have our own internal monologue as we go about our daily life.

"Are these eggs still fresh?"

"I might make two pieces of toast today, I'm hungry."

Why not share this with pēpi, toddlers and young children? This is a great opportunity to share the gift of language.

www.talkingmatters.org.nz

*The Talk Tips were originally developed by LENA and adapted by Talking Matters for a NZ context

TIPS FOR MULTILINGUAL ENVIRONMENTS

Learn a few key words the child's home language. Encourage everyone to use them.

- "Time to change your pañal. Your diaper!"
- "Hello, it's great to see you! Nǐ hǎo!"
- "Thank you, that's so nice! Shukran!"





**Me kōrero ki a rātou
ake mahi me a rātou
ake tirohanga**

**Comment on what
they're doing or
looking at.**

Comment on what they're doing or looking at.

When we describe what babies and toddlers are doing or looking at, we're giving them words and sentences that match their interest at that moment. This tells them we're interested in them and makes it easier for them to take a turn. Don't be shy to use 'juicy' words e.g. you could say the bird is flying, but you could also say it's soaring or fluttering.

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**Me whakaingoa mai i
ngā mea e rātou te
aroarohia**

**Name things they
are interested in.**

Name things they are interested in.

You might not find a packet of rice that interesting, but that doesn't mean babies feel the same! Their world and community is new to them - share the gift of language by naming things they look at, touch or taste

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**Me whakaheke ki a
rātou kōeketanga:
kanohi ki te kanohi**

**Get down on their
level: face to face.**

Get down on their level: face to face.

Kanohi ki te Kanohi is the foundation for any genuine connection and most important for babies and toddlers. Not only do they learn from our facial expressions, they're taking note of the shapes our lips are making as we speak. They want to copy us. Being face to face helps us notice what they're interested in too.

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**Me āta whakarongo,
āta rangona ki ā
rātou tirohanga, mahi
me a rātou kōrero
hoki**

Tune in.

Tune in.

Take a moment to tune in to what your baby might be thinking and feeling. They love spending time with you.

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**Whakataurite i a
rātou me whakahua
atu i ngā kupu ki a
rātou**

**Imitate them and
add words.**

Imitate them and add words.

Imitating the sounds and gestures baby makes is fun. It can go on for hours! Next time you imitate pepi, add a word or short sentence about what you're doing to take it to the next level.

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**Me tatari ana hei tā
rātou whakautu**

**Wait for their
response.**

Wait for their response

Babies and toddlers are learning so much every single day, it's incredible how much they're taking in. Sometimes it can take them a wee bit of time to respond as many of their movements, sounds, gestures and words are new to them. Give them time. Don't assume they don't know.

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talking matters

Talking Tips

FOR RESPONSIVE INTERACTIONS



Pā atu, awhi, pūmau.

Touch, hug, hold.

Touch, hug, hold.

Talking isn't the only way we connect and communicate. We connect with babies through loving touch and we can never cuddle a baby too much. Scientists have also discovered that the more you hug your baby, the more their brain grows!

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**Me whakawhiti
kōrero ki a rātou,
kaua e kōrero i ngā
wā kātoa**

**Take turns, don't
do all the talking.**

Take turns, don't do all the talking.

It can be easy to get carried away and read the whole story in one go - funny voices and all. Why not pause for a moment and let your child take a turn? A baby's response could be a sound or touching the page. A toddler might use a single word or a sentence. Give them space to share their thoughts and ideas.

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**me pāorooro, me
whakapiri hoki i ngā
kupu ki ā rātou
kōrero, ki ā rātou
mahi hoki**

Repeat.

Repeat.

Children LOVE repetition and they learn so much from it. Next time they want to hear or sing the same waiata again why not add another verse? Or why not add movements this time? Indulge their need for "one more time", keep it fresh for you and teach them something new. It's how they learn.

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**Me whai haere i a
rātou, me mahia te
mahi pai ki a rātou**

**Follow their lead,
do what interests
them.**

Follow their lead, do what interests them.

When playing with babies and toddlers, go with the flow and follow their interests. Their attention often jumps from one thing to another and that's natural for their age. Once you're tuned in and following their lead it can be a surprise as to what they're interested in. We want to talk about the mobile we're making, while they're obsessed with something else. Go with it. It's interesting to them.

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**Me
whakamanawatia,
whakamanatia i nga
wā kātoa**

**Encourage them,
be positive.**

Encourage them, be positive.

She wants to play with her baby sister and knows she's got to be careful. Let your tamaiti know how to play with pepi in a gentle way. She might learn some new words along the way.

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**tā te kanohi, ā,
whakapioioi i ō
ringaringa**

**Make faces,
use gestures.**

talking matters



Talking Tips

FOR RESPONSIVE INTERACTIONS

**He mahi pārekareka,
me tākaro, me
whakatā hoki**

**Be silly, relax,
have fun.**

Be silly, relax, have fun.

Your baby thinks you are funny. That's all that matters.

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