

Kei Roto i te Whare

Māori Language in the Home



Ko tōku reo, tōku ohooho; tōku reo, tōku mapihi
maurea; tōku reo, tōku whakakai marihi.

*My language is my inspiration, my special gift,
my precious treasure.*



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Presented to the House of Representatives
Pursuant to Section 44 (1) of the Public
Finance Act 1989

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

© Te Puni Kōkiri 2008
ISBN 978-0-478-34558-2
Reprinted July 2015

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Māori Language in the Home



This booklet is designed to help you with decisions about learning and speaking te reo Māori within your household.

It provides you with:

- information about the importance of using te reo Māori;
- strategies you can use to overcome any language issues you may be facing; and
- lists of Māori language phrases that you can use with members of your whānau.

For ease of reference, the booklet has been divided into coloured sections.

WHERO (RED): contains information about Māori language revitalisation and the importance and benefits of speaking Māori in the home.

KARAKA (ORANGE): contains information for people just starting out with te reo.

KŌWHAI (YELLOW): contains information for people with some Māori language skills.

KĀKĀRIKI (GREEN): contains strategies that may help you and pitfalls to look out for.

KAHURANGI (BLUE): contains information for fluent speakers of te reo.

WAIPOROPORO (PURPLE): contains information about available resources, action lists, and Māori language phrase lists.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the people that organised and participated in our 2001 research about *Māori Language Intergenerational Transmission: the factors that assist or hinder speaking Māori within the family*.

The support that we received from Pania Houkamau, Heremia Sua, Lynne-Harata Te Aika and Tūwhakairiora Williams was crucial to the success of the research; their recruitment and organisation of participants helped to ensure that our work remained on track.

Research participants from Porirua, Wellington, Christchurch and Ōpōtiki took part in our focus groups and interviews with honesty and goodwill. Thank you all for your willingness to share your thoughts and experiences with us. Some of the things that you shared, although expressed in humour, hid elements of pain, sorrow and anger. However, through your honesty and openness, we are in a better position to understand how to increase the use of Māori in our families and to overcome the barriers that exist.

Nō reira, e hika mā, tēnā rawa atu koutou.

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This booklet has two key purposes:

1. To highlight the importance of speaking Māori within the home and whānau.
2. To provide information, guidelines and strategies to help whānau who choose to increase the use of Māori in the home.

INTRODUCTION

Around the world, it is recognised that homes and communities have key roles in keeping languages healthy and vital. It is important for the future of the Māori language that it becomes a language spoken in our homes and communities again.

Since 2001, Te Puni Kōkiri has conducted research to look at factors that help or hinder people speaking Māori in their homes and among their whānau.

Various resources are available that provide information to communities about te reo Māori in the home. Refer to the section on “Further Information”.

This booklet specifically targets you and your whānau because you decide what happens within your household. You decide what language(s) you speak in your homes; you control your televisions; you make decisions about where your children go to school. This booklet provides some information and guidance to assist whānau, and parents in particular, with decisions about learning and speaking Māori.

This booklet reinforces strategies that you may already know, or answer problems you have faced at some time. It seeks to re-affirm your experiences and confirm that you are on the right track.

The quotes referred to in this booklet are direct quotes from participants in the research.¹

1. Limited details of participant's gender, age and the community they live in are provided to protect their confidentiality.



MĀORI LANGUAGE REVITALISATION – WHEN WHĀNAU USE IT WE WON'T LOSE IT

"Maybe the effort needs to go into people in their [adult years] ... it would save us a hell of a lot of money. Instead of trying to educate five children, you put it into one person, or the two parents. It's the parents...". (Father, 60-64 yrs Christchurch)

Māori families have a key role in revitalising the Māori language in our homes and communities. Our families sit at the centre of language transfer to our children. While many successes have been achieved in kōhanga and kura, these institutions can't replace the benefits of speaking Māori in the home and among whānau. For example, in any year, children are at kōhanga and kura for about 25% of their waking time; for the other 75% they are with their whānau.

"You'll do more for your children if you can converse with them, rather than not. You know, you can give them the gift of seeing them to a place where they can learn it, but if you don't do it in the home, it's not going to be as good as it could be". (Father, 25-29 yrs, Christchurch)

The whānau context is where 'intergenerational language transmission' takes place. This is the technical name for the process where parents pass their language on to their children and the tikanga that go with the language. This process takes place when parents and whānau speak Māori to their children, and use te reo around them. This helps te reo Māori become part of everyday life.

"We don't even start in Māori. We lapse into Pākehā. If you were raised in English, that's kind of it. There's a kind of thing that is around you. It's much, much, much harder to do it [ie. speak Māori]" (Father, 40-44 yrs, Wellington)

Once this handing down of the language from generation to generation is established, we will have ignited a tool that, with the appropriate support, will be able to sustain itself. It is this process of intergenerational transmission of language which has allowed the English language to keep itself alive and well in New Zealand for the last two centuries!

Speaking Māori in the whānau, at home and in the community:

- helps to re-establish the process of children learning Māori as a natural part of whānau life in the home. This process of 'intergenerational language transmission' is the key foundation for the future health of the Māori language;
- normalises the use of Māori so that it is natural to speak Māori among whānau members. This will help to ensure that te reo is not just a language for school or the marae; and
- assists in raising bilingual children. Having two languages at their command can have benefits for the education of our children. It also means that your children will face less dilemmas about learning or improving their Māori language skills as adults and overcoming the 'habit' of speaking English.

For many people however, establishing Māori as the language of your whānau may require considerable time, energy, support and commitment. It can feel quite unnatural to speak Māori if English is your first language with your whānau and close friends. Beating the habit of speaking English is a major hurdle and it is easy to slip back into your first language without being aware of it. You should be realistic about the time that will be required, too. Learning Māori, like learning any language, takes several years. Don't be disheartened if you think that your progress with te reo is slow; you will have plenty of time and opportunities to practice your skills with your whānau.

"If someone speaks to me in Māori when we are having a conversation, I'll stay in Māori. But if somebody comes in and speaks English, then I'll just break into English". (Father, 40-44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

"So we'd be in the kitchen, just cooking and talking. Our Māori was all mixed up, upside down, but it didn't matter". (Mother, 50-54 yrs, Wellington)

"I'm trying my best through what I do at university, and to try and encourage the kids to speak it at home. But I don't think that kids have the tolerance that adults have. They get sick of endlessly correcting [me]. So, at the end of the day, they just say kōrero Pākehā, Dad". (Father, 30-34 yrs, Wellington)



So, if speaking Māori is a goal for you and your whānau, how do you go about making te reo a habit?

There are four factors that influence how much Māori you choose to speak:

1. *Your knowledge of te reo Māori.*
2. *Your motivation and levels of commitment to learn and use Māori.*
3. *Your home/whānau environment.*
4. *Your awareness of the choice you have to use Māori or English, your awareness of the best way for you to learn a language, and your awareness of strategies to assist you speaking Māori.*

Your starting point will determine how long it could take you to achieve your goals and form new habits.

Of the four factors, perhaps the most influential is awareness. If you are aware of the choices that you have, why you are making your choices, and strategies to implement your choices, you can develop the other factors. There are many people who have a significant amount of Māori language knowledge but don't use this knowledge because they are unaware of their choices. There are also many people who are motivated to learn and speak Māori but don't know the best way to learn and may actually be doing it in a way that doesn't really suit their needs.

What can you do?

- Become aware of what your Māori language goals are. Talk with family members about the role of the Māori language in your whānau and why it is important to you. Make a list of what you would like to achieve with te reo. Explain to other family members about the importance of speaking Māori and the benefits that can be gained from doing this. You can talk about why you would like to speak more Māori so that everyone feels comfortable when you do start using Māori phrases or words with them.
- When you set your goals, think about what you are aiming towards in the future. What do you want for your children in terms of te reo? The Māori language skills of your children will depend on:
 - your Māori language skills;
 - the way in which you choose to transfer those skills, and;
 - your commitment.
 Clear goals can help you to develop a consistent and appropriate strategy.

- If you have a partner who doesn't speak any Māori, it is important to discuss your goals with him/her to ensure that they are included. Their positive attitudes towards family members speaking Māori can play an important role in the process. Everybody has a role to play, regardless of how much Māori they can actually speak.
- If your children are learning Māori, you can discuss your ideas with them. This will encourage them to help you and participate in the whānau goal. Note: it is important that your children play an assisting role only. You shouldn't expect them to teach you Māori! This booklet is focused on how YOU as a parent/adult can speak Māori within your whānau.
- Understanding your motivation to learn and speak Māori can help you to realise your own 'awareness indicators'. For example, new parents usually have a heightened level of awareness about the language they speak to their new babies. Every time they look at their baby they are reminded of their goal. This helps to maintain high motivation levels. Setting goals like seeing and hearing your children speak Māori helps to refresh your motivation levels.

The following sections provide suggestions to overcome the many barriers you could face as a Māori language learner and advocate in your home.

Finally, it is important to stress the point that it takes time to learn a language. Don't be disheartened if your goal is to be a proficient speaker of Māori and you haven't achieved this in twelve months. It takes time to learn a language even when you are immersed in it!

"My baby ... he knows how to kōrero, but every time I kōrero he just [says] talk English to me". (Mother, 40-44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

"If you could get people to ... work amongst the families, I think it would be much more successful than the way we're doing it now. Get them strategically placed throughout Te Waipounamu, right, and those people that had the relationships with all those whānau, they're as good as teachers ... like a mentor programme or something". (Father, 60-64 yrs, Christchurch)

"Don't really speak it at home. My husband is English, and when I answer the phone 'kia ora', he kind of looks at me sideways and says 'what are you doing', I mean he's not strictly supportive". (Mother, 50-54 yrs Christchurch)





TE ARA TUATAHI

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

"We spent a lot of time at various marae, on the peripheral ... so, we spent a lot of time sitting at the back of rooms, observing and watching and listening. So, I could actually understand a lot more than I could speak it". (Female, 30-34 yrs, Christchurch)

I didn't learn any Māori at school. That's the honest truth. I passed School C Māori, I don't know how. I got a B2 but I think that was just through memorizing". (Mother 25-29 yrs, Wellington)

"People like us who are learning [Māori] as a second language, we find it quite complicated. It's a confidence thing. You don't want to make mistakes or embarrass yourself, so you don't do it". (Father, 40-44 yrs, Wellington)

How much Māori do you know?

If you stopped and thought about it, you might be surprised by how much Māori you already know. You might be able to count in Māori to 100, to give some simple instructions, and to name the colours and various parts of the body.

Also, you may have heard Māori spoken when you were growing up. This is called 'passive exposure' and it could mean that you understand more Māori than you realise. There is a tendency to think about te reo in terms of speaking ability alone. Remember, there are four language skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing. You shouldn't underestimate the value of being able to understand Māori. This is valid and valuable knowledge that will ultimately assist you in increasing your speaking ability. Comprehension always comes before being able to speak fluently.

You can use these Māori language skills immediately. You don't have to be a fluent speaker to start speaking Māori in your whānau. Knowing 50 words and using all of them regularly with your whānau can set the platform for growth; you can add one new word or phrase to your 'vocabulary bank' every day. This can be more influential than being a fluent speaker and not using those skills on a daily basis.

The key is to realise how much you do know and understand and to use these skills at every opportunity. Remember: it is the constant repetitive use of language



that assists children to acquire their first language and adults to learn new language skills.

Confidence

It is normal for people to feel whakamā to use the Māori words and phrases they already know. You don't want to make mistakes, especially in front of kaumātua or people who might be better than you at speaking Māori. Some learners have had terrible experiences of people correcting their Māori. This has left learners feeling more embarrassed and unwilling to speak, than enlightened and assisted.

One way to combat a lack of confidence is to practice in the safety of your own home with your whānau and friends. Once you feel comfortable with the phrases and words, you can try them out when you are in public. Many participants in the research said they didn't mind practising if there were no other Māori speakers around. This way, they weren't afraid to make mistakes and risk being corrected in public.

Many people want their te reo to be 100% correct before they start using it. This is an unrealistic expectation. You might be surprised at how much English we speak that is not 'grammatically correct'. For example, do you know the correct use of who and whom? Do you know when to say "Hēmi and me" instead of "Hēmi and I"? Not knowing the 'correct grammar' doesn't stop you from speaking English and communicating your message. And so it can be the same with speaking Māori or other new languages. The emphasis should be on communicating: the finer grammatical points will come in time. With continued practice, learning and listening it will come. In fact, many language teachers say that making mistakes is a very important part of the learning process.

"I get quite intimidated when I know there's other people around that really know their Māori because I know that I talk Māori but I also know that a lot of what I say is wrong". (Mother, 25-29 yrs, Wellington)

"I only know a little. I do help myself and my children ... at home, I name parts of the house and cupboards and all that ... I use that and that helps me and my kids". (Mother, 30-34 yrs, Porirua)



Common Questions and Concerns

How can I help my child to speak Māori when I don't know enough? I might make mistakes and teach my children these same mistakes?

"At home, I'm a little bit hesitant to try and put sentences together because I don't want to get it wrong. Kids pick up on anything you say, especially with younger ones. I don't want them to start saying things wrong". (Father, 25-29 yrs, Porirua)

Use what you already know and aim to gradually increase it. You will be helping your children to learn Māori by making it a normal part of family life. Your children can have access to other Māori language role models in their education to ensure that they are learning language patterns and usages. Through this, the impact of any mistakes will be minimised.

Won't the kōhanga and kura teach my child(ren) to speak Māori? Isn't that the best place for them to learn?

"His aunty came across the city and tonod for our baby to go to their kōhanga. The Ngāti Porou one, of course ... the nanny in the kōhanga was absolutely superb. She helped the parents feel comfortable, she had Māori words written on the wall for the parents ... Just repetition all the time of just simple phrases gave us confidence and broke down the barrier of speaking the reo". (Mother, 50-54 yrs, Wellington)

While your children will learn Māori at kōhanga and kura, there are limits to what these places of learning can do for your children because of the nature of the environment (focused on school work rather than family life) and the limited amount of time children spend there. Children spend approximately 25% of their waking time at kōhanga and kura; for the rest of the time they are with whānau and friends. If you rely on kōhanga and kura to teach your children to speak Māori, you are only using one quarter of the potential opportunities available to raise your children to speak Māori and English.

My partner doesn't speak Māori though, will it confuse my children?

Some families adopt a rule of one parent speaking in one language and the other parent speaking in another. This is quite a common practice amongst families who want to raise bilingual children.



ACTION POINTS

- Make a list of Māori words and phrases you know.
- Practise using your Māori language skills in the safety of your own home.
- Label household items with Māori names.
- Talk with the other members of your whānau about the importance of speaking Māori in the home and how you are going to try and increase how much Māori you speak.
- Watch and listen to Māori language programmes (TV and radio) and listen to Māori music.
- Have Māori speaking zones or times, for example, speaking te reo at mealtimes.

Add your own Action Points here: _____



HE KUPU HOU, HE KŌRERO HOU

LEARNING MĀORI

"I'm a hands on person, and the best thing for me was Te Ātaarangi. That was just kōrero, and I picked it up straight away. Out of all the things I've gone through that was my best learning for me. You spoke it straight away ... you could see it". (Father, 35-39 yrs, Porirua)

"Want to learn to kōrero, not to get a degree...don't want to do thirty assignments". (Mother, 35-39 yrs, Porirua)



Excellent, you have begun to use all your Māori language skills, what now? You need to increase your knowledge.

There are number of options available for increasing your Māori language knowledge. The first step is to realise and appreciate how you do your best learning.

- Do you learn best through listening and repeating? Perhaps you didn't enjoy school the first time around and don't like classroom learning. Try an immersion learning programme such as those offered by Te Ātaarangi or get involved with your local kōhanga reo.
- Do you prefer to see things written? Have you already learnt another language and therefore relate better to the grammar-translation method? Try wānanga, polytechnic or university courses. When looking around for courses:
 - ask for a description of course objectives (this way, you will know exactly what to expect)
 - ask how much writing is required (eg: how many written assignments?) Is this how you like to learn?
 - ask about the set texts and have a look at the style used in the textbooks.

- Do you feel too shy about learning te reo and would like to gradually ease yourself into it at your own pace? Participate in cultural activities, or seek out a friend or whānau member who will teach you little bit by little bit. Borrow a book from the library and set yourself a number of phrases to learn and use each week. Keep a Māori language dictionary handy, where it's easy to reach for and check new words.
- Ask whānau or a friend to tape some Māori waiata for you to learn and get them to explain the meaning. If you have small children, you can learn Māori songs and kōrero similar to nursery rhymes in English.

You can sometimes be held back by thinking, "I need to go home to learn" or "I should learn it off the old people". These ideas are excellent if moving home or spending time everyday with your old people is a reality for you at the moment. But don't let wishful or idealistic thinking determine or delay your choice for learning and speaking Māori now.

"Yeah, that's been an instrument for me to learn te reo because part of the tikanga for mau taiaha is to learn. That is the key. Taiaha was just an enticement, a hook and through te reo you learn tikanga". (Father, 35-39 yrs, Porirua)

"I learnt most of my Māori here. Not home at Te Arawa where I should have learnt". (Mother, 50-54 yrs, Wellington)



KŌRERO, KŌRERO, KŌRERO

SPEAKING MORE MĀORI

"We speak te reo Māori as much as we can ... even with my limited te reo, we just try and kōrero as much as we can. When I'm not, I'm aware that I'm not speaking Māori around him and feel guilty about that".
(Father, 25-29 yrs, Christchurch)

It may not be practical to speak Māori "i nga wa katoa" (all the time); however there are things that you can do to increase Māori language within your home and whānau.

- Borrow Māori books from the library and read them to your children (Note: teenagers may not be keen on this activity!) Ask them simple questions in Māori as you go along about the story and the characters/pictures in it.
- Use your television. Record Māori programmes off the television, so that you can create a Māori language environment whenever you want. This could be particularly useful for pre-schoolers who are at home during the day and who would normally watch television anyway. To maximise the benefits from television programmes, it is important for the viewers to interact with what is being said, that is, asking each other questions about what's happening on the programme. Otherwise, sitting in front of television counts more as passive exposure to Māori, which is useful as a support, but should not be depended on as a means of direct language learning.



- If your children are in some form of Māori medium education, get involved with school-based activities. Practice your language skills with other parents and teachers. Don't be afraid that you may be the only parent there who is not fluent. You will probably find that there are other parents at a similar level to you.
- Think about the words and phrases that you use all the time and ask how to say it in Māori.
- Participate in Māori cultural activities, such as kapa haka and mau taiaha, as much as possible. Participation will increase your chances for speaking Māori.

"When I go out alone with the kids, I talk Māori galore. When we're out and about, and there's no Māori speakers about, I go for it". (Mother 25-29 yrs, Wellington)

"I put my kids in this kura 'cause it would provide an opportunity to talk with other parents". (Mother, 40-44 yrs, Wellington)



HE HIPA, HE TAI EPA...ME HAERE TONU...POSSIBLE BARRIERS AND PITFALLS

"There's a deep sense of whakamā amongst my whānau about starting up again with te reo, about getting it wrong, about looking stupid in front of others". (Father, 25–29 yrs, Christchurch)

"I say when you talk to people that are a bit fluent in te reo, [tell] them that you are learning. 'Kei te ako au i te reo. Kaua e huri ki te reo tauwi. Me kōrero koe i te reo i ngā wā katoa', 'cause I'm learning and I want to listen. I find it changes the attitudes of the tutors, eh". (Father, 40–44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

Whakamā

As mentioned earlier, whakamā is the major barrier that many people will need to overcome. Young children have less fear than adults about making mistakes. They try out all their new words and phrases and learn through this process. However, the fear of making mistakes and looking stupid stops adults from trying their language skills.

The feeling of whakamā is increased because your language is a part of your identity. You are learning YOUR language. The desire and passion to speak Māori can be extremely motivating and extremely frightening at the same time. It can be frightening because of the nagging questions, "What if I don't succeed? How does this reflect on me as a Māori"? Some research participants talked about Māori classes they had taken. They said that they didn't do well in the classes and felt dumb.

The sense of whakamā can be increased when there are other more proficient speakers of Māori around, who may (or may not) know you are making mistakes. This is often sufficient to stop people from saying anything at all!



Whakamā busters

- Although it is a natural feeling, you can overcome whakamā by practicing in those environments where you feel safe, and with people you trust and feel comfortable with, until you gain confidence.
- At some stage, you will need to take the plunge and go beyond your comfort zone. Keep your goals and your motivations in mind.
- If a more proficient speaker corrects you, accept the new knowledge offered and don't worry about the manner in which it was delivered. Remember, just because someone is knowledgeable in the language doesn't mean that they are also knowledgeable in ways of assisting and teaching others about the language.
- Tell people that you are a learner: this will usually produce a more positive and helpful attitude.
- If you have had trouble learning te reo in classes, remember that this is not a reflection on YOU. Think about the way that you prefer to learn things, and look for opportunities to use those techniques. Be realistic, too, about the amount of time that it takes to learn a language.

"So we went in. We had no reo, and the first thing was getting through the threshold [of] whakamā. It was the biggest thing". (Father, 40-44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

"I thought, oh yeah, I'm gonna try this Māori. So, I went down the pub and started talking away. Uncle X, he came up and said, 'If you can't talk bloody Māori, bloody shut up'. I reminded him, too, twenty years later. I said, 'It was you, you deterred me from learning'". (Father, 40-44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

"I guess I get a little impatient with those that are just learning. I wonder, 'did they get the message or not'. I haven't got time to waste, I'm gonna make sure that I get my message across so I break into English". (Mother, 40-44 yrs, Ōpōtiki)



ME PĒHEA KOE E ĀWHINA AI?

How can fluent speakers help?

"I feel blessed that another whānau has taken me and my brothers under their wing and nurtured us and encouraged us and inspired us to what we're doing now. So, I feel quite privileged". (Female, 30-34 yrs, Christchurch)

"I think a big part in our whānau is actually just a one-on-one thing with someone you trust and you know is not going to bum me out". (Father, 25-29 yrs, Christchurch)

"I could learn off my aunts [and] my uncles. Especially my history, my ancestors, my people and who my hapū is ... It's not just the language, it's everything else that goes with the language". (Father, 30-34 yrs, Porirua)

Little support and information has been made available to native and fluent speakers of Māori in terms of how they can help other people and what their role is in Māori language revitalisation. It is sometimes assumed that native and fluent speakers of Māori will automatically "know" how to teach or assist learners. This is not always the case. This section provides some general background information about what second language learners are going through and some possible ways in which native and fluent speakers can assist.

Appreciate the difficulties

If Māori is your first language and you had to learn English at school then you can appreciate some of the difficulties that second language learners of Māori are going through. There are issues like: the fear of making mistakes and looking dumb; the inability to communicate your message; the feelings of frustration and isolation about not being able to participate in conversations. However, there are some slight differences that you might not be aware of. Māori learners are learning their "own" language as a second language. This can create a lot of pressure and anxiety for learners as failure can be interpreted as a failure to be Māori. Māori language is such an intimate part of our identity that many people who had negative experiences with te reo shunned the language, and anything to do with being Māori.



Providing the lead

If you speak Māori, you can provide the lead for learners by helping them practice and creating space where they feel safe to speak Māori and where it is okay to make mistakes.

Being a 'lead' means using your Māori language skills as much as possible around people who are learning. This can require patience, as there may be times when you are tempted to revert to English. If possible, wait for clues that you need to switch to English. These clues may not be verbal, because few adults want to admit that they don't know what is happening or understand what is being said.

When you talk with learners, try and pitch your Māori at a level that learners will understand. This will develop their sense of confidence in the language. It can also lessen their fear of engaging in spoken Māori, even if they only engage with you. Trust is a huge factor. They need to trust you not to make them feel stupid.

Safe environments

The provision of a safe learning and speaking environment is essential to assist learners to overcome whakamā. This can be achieved by letting people try out new words and phrases and make mistakes. When there are mistakes, you can help the learner by modelling the correct way to say something without directly pointing out their errors.

Second language learners learn different phrasings, words and punctuation from different teachers. If you hear one of your whānau use a word or phrase from another iwi, tell them about the expressions used by your iwi. Just telling learners that they are wrong, and that they should learn to speak a certain way, could result in them shying away from future use of the language.

"Last week, I had one of my cousins over. He was saying, 'oh bro, can you help me with a few kupu. I've been going to kura with the kids'. But, then they won't speak to him. He tries to talk to them ... so he came over about 7 o'clock, and he didn't leave till about half past ten. I said to him ... 'if you want to come round, come round' ". (Father, 25-29 yrs, Ōpōtiki)

"I went back to Uncle, so I had someone ... I was really confident because once he spoke to me, [he] more or less put me under his armpit". (Father, 35-39 yrs, Porirua)

"We do try to speak it [ie. Māori] ... I talk to her, but she gets real hōhā because she hates to repeat herself and I don't listen very well. So, we both end up arguing". (Mother, 40-44 yrs, Wellington)



ACTION POINTS

- Appreciate that second language learners may be whakamā about practicing their Māori language skills with you.
- Be patient. You may need to repeat yourself more than once. By targeting your language to a level suitable to the learner you can assist the learner to understand you, which has a flow on effect for the learner's level of confidence. This does not necessarily mean you have to simplify what you say and use "baby-talk". Elaborate, and use different examples to help learners to understand.
- Be patient with whānau and friends who seem to continually make the same language mistake. It takes time to learn/acquire a language so don't give up on learners.
- Try not to be critical as many second language learners can be put off from further learning and speaking of Māori if they feel humiliated.
- Be aware of a possible difference in attitude between yourself and learners towards the use of transliterated words and new Māori words. Miscommunication can occur both ways through usage of words that you may have never heard of.

Add your own Action Points here: _____



FURTHER INFORMATION

Written Resources

- Te Puni Kōkiri. P.O.Box 3943 Wellington, (04) 819 6000
2003 Strategies for Second Language Learners of Te Reo Māori.
2001 The Use of Māori in the Family.
- Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori. P.O. Box 411, Wellington, (04) 471 0244
He Muka – email hemuka@tetaurawhiti.govt.nz to subscribe.
Kōrero Māori booklet series – see the full range at http://www.koreromaori.nz/resources/korero_maori_order_form_5_july.pdf
- From bookshops:
Q's Course in Māori, by Quinton Hita, published by Harper Collins Publishers.
Te Reo Taketake, Ko te Pū: A Māori Language Course for Beginners,
by Rapata Wiri, published by Reed Publishing.
Cultureflow: The Māori Language Programme for Beginners,
published by Addenda.
Oxford Māori Picture Dictionary, published by Oxford University Press.
First Hundred Words in Māori, published by Huia Publishers.

Community Resources

Remember there are many people, groups and activities already around you who are learning and speaking Māori already or who have Māori language books and resources, which you can access:

- Whānau and friends
- Local kōhanga, kura, wānanga, Te Ātaarangi branch
- Marae activities
- Local groups such as kapa haka, mau taiaha, waka ama
- Your local library

Community Funding

The Mā Te Reo community fund is managed by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori. It supports projects, programmes and activities that contribute to Māori language regeneration among whānau and communities. Contact 0800 MA TE REO (628 373) or go to www.ma-tereo.co.nz for further information.

Website Resources

These websites have information about Māori language issues, as well as Māori language materials and activities. All of them have links to other Māori language sites.

Te Puni Kokiri: www.tpk.govt.nz

Te Taura Whiri: www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz

Te Kete Ipurangi: www.tki.govt.nz

Kimikupu Hou – database of Māori vocabulary: www.reotupu.co.nz/wakareo/

Ngata Dictionary online: www.learningmedia.co.nz/nd

English to Māori word translator: <http://translator.kedri.info/>

Listen to and view te reo Māori online. These sites include interactive activities for beginners and learners:

<http://www.koreromaori.co.nz/>

<http://maorilanguage.net/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TalkMaori/>

<http://www.tki.org.nz/r/language/lls/wehi/>

<http://www.tewhanake.maori.nz/>

<http://www.generationreo.com/>

<http://flashbooks.e2dev.co.nz/home/?e2mailer=77ca3200e7ec5d900f5c0c12a4e8f09e/>

ACTION POINTS

- Be aware of the important role that the whānau plays in keeping the Māori language alive and healthy.
- Be aware of your own role in speaking Māori within your whānau and the many benefits that this can provide.
- Talk with the other members of your whānau about the importance of speaking Māori in the home and how you are going to try and increase how much Māori you speak. Talk about a language plan for you and your whānau in which everyone can participate (through either speaking Māori or supporting others who speak it).
- Make a list of words and phrases you know and practice using them in the safety of your own home.
- Label household items with Māori names.
- Watch and listen to Māori language programmes (TV and radio) and listen to Māori music.
- Have Māori speaking zones or times, for example, speaking te reo at mealtimes.
- Learn waiata and nursery rhymes in Māori.
- Look at what interests your children and modify activities slightly by using Māori words.

SOME QUICK POINTERS

- Every time you speak Māori to your child, you are teaching them two things. You are teaching them te reo, and you are also teaching them that te reo is an important part of home life.
- You don't have to be a fluent speaker to teach your children te reo. Every little contribution that you can make will help them.
- If you learn one new phrase in te reo every day, you will have 365 phrases that you can use each year.
- Children learn by repetition. Therefore, it is good to use the same phrases in te reo with them on a daily basis. This also means that you can be learning at the same time.
- Don't give up if your child speaks English back to you. They are still learning by listening to you use te reo.
- The more exposure that your children get to te reo at home, the better they will do at kōhanga reo/kura.
- Speaking te reo at home won't harm the ability of your child to learn English.
- Enrolling at Māori language classes is a good way to extend your use of te reo at home.
- Don't feel bad if you slip back into English. It is natural to speak your first language, especially when you are sick or stressed out.

PHRASES TO USE

This phrase section is designed to support parents who want to speak Māori to their children. The pages can be detached and put in a more accessible or visible spot in your home. The pages are organised by theme, in an easy-to-access format, and include phrases that can be used with infants through to older children.

Use these phrases as a stepping stone to using Māori with your children. This is not a comprehensive list and should not be regarded as an 'end' to your learning. If you can learn one new phrase in te reo every day, you will have 365 phrases that can be used with children after one year.

If there are phrases that you use regularly but aren't listed here, add them to the list and get assistance with translating them from friends and whānau.

Waking Up in the Morning	Te Oho Ake i te Ata
Are you awake?	Kei te oho koe?
How was your sleep?	I pēhea tō moe?
Did you have a sound sleep?	I au tō moe?
What dreams did you have?	He aha ō moemoeā?
Wake up!	E oho!
Get up (out of bed)!	Maranga!
Take off your pyjamas.	Tangohia ō kākahu moe.
Let's take off your pyjamas.	Me tango tāua i ō kākahu moe.
Stand up.	E tū.
Arms up.	Ō ringaringa ki runga
Now, let's put your shirt on.	Nā, me whakamau i tō hāte.
Let's put your trousers on.	Me whakamau i tō tarau.
Let's wash your face.	Me horoi i tō kanohi.
Your face is all clean now.	Kua mā tō kanohi ināianeī.
Do you want some breakfast?	Kei te pīrangi koe ki te parakuihi?
Eat nicely.	Kia āta kai.
You should brush your hair.	Me paraihe koe i ō makawe.
Where's the comb?	Kei hea te heru?
You should brush your teeth.	Me paraihe koe i ō niho.
You look beautiful.	Nā, he ātaahua koe.
Put your shoes on.	Whakamaua ō hū.

Add your own Phrases here:

Feeding your baby	Te Whāngai i tō pēpi
Do you want to have a kaikai, baby?	Kei te hiakai koe, pēpi?
Are you hungry?	Kei te hiakai koe?
Here you are. Eat up.	Anei. E kai.
Open up your mouth.	Huakina mai tō waha.
Eat up.	Kia kaha te kai.
Ouch. Don't bite.	Ei. Kua e ngaungau.
Have you had enough to fill you up?	Kua ngata tō hiakai?
That's enough.	Ka nui tēnā.
You're a little fatty.	Tō momona hoki.
Do you want more?	He kai anō māu?
Do you want this side too?	Kia huria koe ki tēnei taha?
Eat slowly. Don't be greedy.	Kia āta kai. Kua e hao.
I am burping you.	Kei te whakatokopā au i a koe.
I'll rub your back.	Ka mirimiri au i tō tuarā.
You've hiccoughed.	Kua tokomauri koe.
You just threw up on Daddy.	Kua ruaki koe ki runga i a Pāpā.
That's better, now.	Nā, ka pai tēnā.
What do you want to eat?	He aha tō pirangi hei kaikai?
I'll get the kai ready.	Māku e mahi ngā kai.

Add your own Phrases here:

Putting on a Fresh Nappy	Te Whakamau atu i te Kope Mā
What's that smell?	He aha tēnā haunga?
Have you got a smelly bum?	He haunga tō kumu?
Have you farted?	Kua patero koe?
Are you wet?	Kei te mākū koe?
You mimi'd your nappy.	Kua mīia e koe tō kope.
Your nappy is full of mimi.	Kua mākū katoa tō kope.
You filled your nappy.	Kua tikona e koe tōu kope.
Did all that come out of you?	I puta katoa mai tēnā i a koe?
Gosh.	E hika mā.
Where are the wet wipes to wipe your bum?	Kei whea ngā tihi mākū hei ūkui i tō kumu?
We'd better wipe the tiko off.	Me ūkui atu i te tiko.
Let's put on a clean nappy.	Nā, me whakamau he kope mā.
I'll lift up your legs.	Ka hiki au i ō waewae.
I'll put a fresh nappy on.	Ka whakamau atu au i te kope mā.
Let's put your pants back on.	Me kuhu anō tō tarau.

Add your own Phrases here:

Washing your Baby	Te Horoi i tō Tamaiti.
Take off your clothes.	Tangohia ō kākahu.
I'll take off your clothes.	Ka tango au i ō kākahu.
Get in the bathtub.	Me kuhu atu koe ki te tāpu.
How is the water?	E pēhea ana te wai?
This water is hot.	He wera tēnei wai.
This water is cold.	He makariri tēnei wai.
This water is just right.	He pai noa tēnei wai.
I'll wash your eyes.	Ka horoi au i ō whatu.
Start on the inside, and move out.	Ka timata i roto, ka haere ki waho.
I'll wash your head and your hair.	Ka horoi au i tō upoko me ō makawe.
Where's the soap?	Kei whea te hopi?
Here's the soap.	Anei te hopi.
Gosh. That's not soap.	Auē. Ehara tēnā i te hopi.
You're all clean now.	Kua mā katoa koe ināianeī.
You smell so good.	Tō kakara hoki.
Let's wrap you up in your towel.	Nā, me pōkai i a koe ki te taora.
I'll dry you off.	Ka whakamāroke au i a koe.
Give me your arm.	Toro mai tō ringaringa.
Give me your leg.	Toro mai tō wae.
You're all dry now.	Kua maroke pai koe ināianeī.
Let's sprinkle some powder on you.	Me ruirui he paura ki runga i a koe.

Add your own Phrases here:

Travelling in the Car	Te Haere mā runga Motokā
I'd better sit you into the car.	Me whakanoho au i a koe ki roto i te motokā.
Get in and sit on your carseat.	Kuhu atu koe, ka noho ki tō tūru.
Put your seatbelt on.	Whakamaua tō tātua.
Have you got your seatbelt on?	Kei te mau i a koe tō tātua?
Let's put your seatbelt on.	Me whakamau tāua i tō tātua.
Sit down.	E noho.
Sit still. Don't fidget.	Āta noho. Kaua e oreore.
Leave the window alone.	Waiho te wini.
Leave the gearstick alone.	Waiho te rākau nei.
Shall we sing a song?	Me waiata tāua?
What does the red light mean?	He aha te tikanga o te raiti whero?
Stop.	E tū!
What does the green light mean?	He aha te tikanga o te raiti kākāriki?
Go.	Haere.
We've made it. We're here.	Anā, kua tae mai tāua.
Get out.	Putu atu koe.
Close the car door.	Katia te kuaha o te motokā.
Hold my hand.	Pupuritia taku ringaringa.

Add your own Phrases here:

Looking after Sick Children	Te Māuiui
Don't cry.	Kaua e tangi.
Have you got a sore puku?	Kei te ngau tō puku?
Are you sick?	Kei te māuiui koe?
Have you got a headache?	Kei te ānini tō upoko?
Bless you (after sneezing).	Tihē!
You've got a snotty nose.	Kei te hūpē tō ihu.
Blow your nose.	Whengua tō ihu.
Here's a tissue.	Anei te tihi.
Where's your sore?	Kei hea koe e mamae ana?
Have you got a sore throat?	Kei te mamae tō korokoro?
Have you got a sore ear?	Kei te mamae tō taringa?
You've cut your finger.	Kua motu koe i tō matimati.
I'll kiss your sore better.	Māku e kihi tō mamae.
Here's your medicine. Drink it up.	Anei tō rongoā. Inumia.
That's a bad cough.	He kino tō maremare.
Cough. Then you'll bring up the phlegm.	Maremare. Ka puta te huare.
You should go to sleep.	Me moe koe.
You'll feel better tomorrow.	Hei āpōpō, ka ora ake koe.
Mummy will come back later.	Mō muri a Māmā ka hoki mai.

Add your own Phrases here:

Instructions	He Reo Tohutohu
Come here.	Haere mai.
Sit down.	E noho.
Stand up.	E tū.
Look over here.	Titiro mai.
Listen here, please.	Tēnā, whakarongo mai.
Lie down.	Takoto.
You'd better go to the toilet.	Me haere koe ki te wharepaku.
Eat up.	E kai.
Have a mimi.	E mimi.
Leave that alone, please.	Waiho tēnā, koa.
Give that (thing) here.	Homai tēnā.
Take this to Daddy.	Haria atu tēnei ki a Pāpā.
Do it like this.	Mahia kia pēnei.
Hush.	Kia turituri tō reo.
Don't cry.	Kaua e tangi.
Be good.	Kia tika te mahi.
Turn around (towards me).	Huri mai.
Turn around (the other way).	Huri atu.
Be careful.	Kia tūpato.

Add your own Phrases here:

Playing Word Games	He Reo Tākaro
Where are your ears?	Kei hea ō taringa?
Where is your nose?	Kei hea tō ihu?
Where are you?	Kei hea koe?
What is this?	He aha tēnei?
This is a nose.	He ihu tēnei.
This is a mouth.	He waha tēnei.
How many fingers do you have?	E hia ō matimati?
You've got ten fingers.	Tekau ō matimati.
How many feet do you have?	E hia ō waewae?
You've got two legs. One, two.	E rua ō waewae. Tahi, rua.
Close your eyes.	Katia ō whatu.
Let's count to ten.	Me kaute tāua ki te tekau.
What is inside the box?	He aha kei roto i te pouaka?
What is inside the bag?	He aha kei roto i te pēke?
Who is this?	Ko wai tēnei?
Who is your Mum?	Ko wai tō māmā?
Who is your Dad?	Ko wai tō pāpā?
You'd better tidy up your room.	Me whakatika koe i tō rūma.

Add your own Phrases here:

Praising and Scolding	He Reo Mihi, He Reo Kohete
You're very good.	He tino pai hoki koe.
Awesome.	Ka rawe.
You've done a good job.	He tino pai tō mahi.
That's beautiful.	Te ātaahua hoki.
What a clever child you are.	Kātahi nā te tamaiti mōhio, ko koe.
You're the best.	Kei runga noa atu koe.
That's amazing.	Ka mau te wehi.
What an excellent job.	Kei whea kē mai te pai o te mahi nei.
You look beautiful.	He ātaahua hoki koe.
Leave that alone.	Waiho tēnā.
Do it like this.	Mahia kia pēnei.
Don't do that yet.	Taihoa e mahi tēnā mahi.
You are too much!	He kino kē koe!
That is a naughty thing to do.	He mahi hīanga hoki tēnā.
I don't like it when you do that.	Kāore au i te pai ki tēnā mahi.
Goodness me.	Auē, e hika mā.
Be quiet.	Turituri.
By golly!	Pai kare!

Add your own Phrases here:

Bedtime	Te Haere ki te Moe
Go to bed, please.	Tēnā koa, haere koe ki tō moenga.
Let's put your pyjamas on.	Kuhuna ō kākahu moe.
Take off your clothes.	Tangohia ō kākahu.
Get in your bed.	Kuhu atu ki roto i tō moenga.
Is your bed warm?	He mahana tō moenga?
Give me a kiss.	Kihi mai.
Give me a cuddle.	Awahi mai.
Do you want a book?	Kei te pīrangi koe ki te pukapuka?
Shall I read you a story?	Māku e pānui tētahi kōrero ki a koe.
Do you need a mimi?	Kei te hiamimi koe?
Close your eyes to sleep.	E moe ō whatu.
I love you very much.	Tino nui tōku aroha mōu.
Go to sleep.	E moe.
I'll leave the light on.	Ka waiho au i te raiti kia kā.
I'll turn the light off.	Ka whakaweto au i te raiti.
Sweet dreams.	Kia pai ō moemoeā.

Add your own Phrases here:

Get up!	Maranga mai!
Good morning!	Mōrena!
Have you had a wash?	Kua horoi koe?
Breakfast is ready.	Kua reri te parakuihi.
Have you had your breakfast?	Kua kai koe i tō parakuihi?
Have you done the dishes?	Kua horoi koe i ngā pereti?
Is this dirty?	He paru tēnei?
Make your bed.	Whakapaihia tō moenga.
Can you put your clothes away?	Whakahokia ō kākahu ki te kāpata.
Clean up your room.	Whakatikahia tō rūma.
Take your shoes off inside.	Tangohia ō hu i roto nei.
What are you up to today?	Kei te aha koe i tēnei rā?
Where are you going?	Kei te haere koe ki whea?
Who are you going with?	Ko wai mā kei te haere?
How much money do you need?	E hia te moni e pīrangi ana koe?
What's it for?	Hei aha tēnei?
What is this?	He aha tēnei?
Call me if you need a ride.	Me waea mai mēnā e pīrangi ana koe kia tīkina atu.
Be careful and look after each other.	Kia tūpato, me tiaki tētahi i tētahi.
Don't be late.	Kaua e tūreiti.
Put some other clothes on.	Kuhuna ētahi atu kākahu.
You look pretty/handsome in those clothes.	Te pai hoki o tō hanga i ēnā kākahu.
Are you playing sports this weekend?	Kei te tākaro koe i ēnei rā whakatā?
Did you win your game?	I toa koutou?
You're neat alright, too much.	Ka mau te wehi.

NOTES:



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Kōrero Māori is for everyone who wants to speak the Māori language, or learn more about it. You can find interactive conversations, language resources, and advice to help you increase your knowledge of reo Māori. Visit **korero.maori.nz**

