

Whanaungatanga

Building relationships and creating a sense of belonging

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As you start to think about the upcoming year, consider how you might establish new relationships with your ākonga in the new year?

Building relationships – whanaungatanga – is the key to a positive learning environment, which as we know is one of the ways in which students learn best.

Spending time in the first few weeks getting to know each other and building a class culture, kotahitanga, is our core business as kaiako. So why not incorporate ngā taonga tākaro (traditional Māori games) into your Term one programme.

Try these ideas to get you started.

Remember the party game 'Pass the Orange?' This is a similar game that can be played during Matamata-rongo (meet and greet protocol).

The game's objective is to pass a rākau around the students who are standing in a circle, only using their neck (and not using their hands).

Because the focus of this game is on building relationships, there are no 'outs'. When a student drops the rākau, they don't leave the circle. Encourage the other students to praise the effort and encourage a sense of whole-class achievement.

Honga (or Hononga)

Hononga is about joining and connection. This whanaungatanga activity helps ākonga build relationships with others in their class, developing trust, communication, and co-operative skills.

- In pairs, one student balances a piece of wood (the hongā) on their forehead as they lay on their back.
- The other student bends down and presses their forehead on the hongā also.
- The partners join hands and attempt to stand up without dropping the hongā.

You could use a light piece of tī kōuka (cabbage tree), a beanbag, balloon, or anything you have around the classroom. To extend the ākonga, have them move with the hongā around an obstacle course.



Tikanga

Tī rākau was viewed as a game and useful exercise for tamariki. Young women found that was beneficial for agility and for performing kapa haka.

Tikanga for tī rākau vary between hapū and iwi. So talk to Māori whānau, or hapū or iwi connections in your school community, or talk to the Strategic Advisor Māori at your regional Ministry of Education office to learn about the tikanga in your area.

Te reo Māori is an intrinsic part of tākarō

Te reo Māori is an intrinsic part of tākarō. Activities and games offer opportunities to use te reo Māori and appreciate tikanga Māori.

Encourage ākongā to use te reo Māori to describe players, places, and movements.

- Ki raro – down
- Ki runga – up
- Ki te taha – to the side
- Ki waenganui – between
- Kuru(a) – throw
- Matau – right
- Mauī – left
- Me pēnei – like this
- Taki noho/e noho - asking ākongā to sit
- Taki tū/e tū - asking ākongā to stand
- Whakarongo - listen

Discover te ao kori resources for teachers of years 1-8 on the Physical Education New Zealand website

<https://penz.org.nz/physical-education-in-new-zealand/te-ao-kori/>

Discover the te ao kori resources on TKI

- *Understanding te ao kori* (tikanga guidelines, planning activities for te ao kori, helping ākongāto learn)

<https://hpe.tki.org.nz/professional-learning-support/understanding-te-ao-kori/>

- *Exploring te ao kori – Resource collection* (includes learning experiences that spring from te ao Māori, and integrates health, physical education, and the arts.)

<https://hpe.tki.org.nz/planning-and-teaching-resources/resource-collections/exploring-te-ao-kori/>