

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

- Think about own behaviour & role modelling – tamaiti will copy! Keep to familiar routines so they know what to expect.
- Visual reminders about routines to support their understanding – have photos or draw pictures of what happens each day, or use a sand timer to show how long before bed.
- Keep instructions short, simple & clear.
- Teach tamaiti what you want them to do, instead of what not to do, eg. *'Please walk when you're inside'* instead of *'don't run'*.
- Give frequent & specific praise – look for opportunities where you can comment on them behaving appropriately & positively, eg. *'I'm really proud of the way you are playing with Tama'* instead of saying *'good boy'*.
- Use distraction – quick & excited distractions are a useful technique if you notice tamaiti about to react in an inappropriate way, eg. *'Oh look at the big tower Ariana has built'*.
- Give options – having a choice can empower tamaiti to choose more positive behaviours, eg. if they are resisting coming inside, say *'Okay do you want to hold my hand or shall we race inside for kai?'*
- Help tamaiti back in to play – if they have been upset, wait until they are calm & ready to join play, then support them to do that – either individually or in a group activity.

Some tamariki can have difficulties which can not be solved by the suggestions in this sheet.

This may cause frustration for them & their whānau. If you are having difficulty managing the behaviour of tamaiti & would like further help contact us through the Tamaariki website, or contact Te Kohanga Reo National Trust or your local Ministry of Education office.

**Taking action early can
make a big difference**

www.tamaariki.com



TAMAARIKI

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

MAURI TŪ, MAURI OHOHO, MAURI TAU

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

An important part of the social & emotional development for tamaiti is learning & interacting with others. Kaiako can help this by promoting peer relationships between tamaiti.

BEHAVIOUR IS USUALLY A RESPONSE TO AN EMOTION OR SITUATION

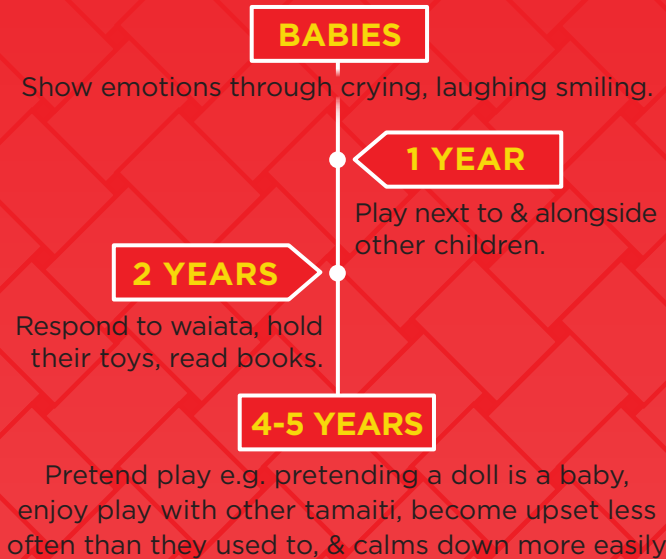
- How tamaiti understand & express their emotions significantly impacts their ability to manage themselves in everyday life.
- Tamaiti who have difficulty regulating their emotions, are likely to also have problems managing their behaviours.
- These challenges can often relate to difficulties with communication, social interactions & other areas of development.

If you notice a tamaiti is showing behaviours that are difficult to manage, it can be worrying.

Taking action early can make a big difference.

AGES & STAGES:

The following is a general guide of what to expect at each age – each tamaiti is unique & will develop at their own pace:



BUILDING...

...strong relationships with all tamaiti, whānau & kaiako

KNOWING...

...all tamaiti well & understanding their preferences & dislikes

FOCUSING...

...on the strengths of the tamaiti

HELPING...

...children to understand how they are feeling by labelling them, e.g. happy, sad, disappointed, proud, shy

SOME THINGS TO CHECK

Has your tamaiti had their hearing checked?	ĀĒ
	KAO
Does your tamaiti have difficulty understanding instructions or questions?	ĀĒ
	KAO
Does your tamaiti have difficulties playing with & alongside others?	ĀĒ
	KAO
What is going on before the unwanted behaviour starts? Can this be changed, planned for, or avoided?	ĀĒ
	KAO
How are others responding to the behaviour? Is it working?	ĀĒ
	KAO
Are there life changes or experiences that could be contributing to this behaviour? (eg. birth of a new baby, whānau moving etc.)	ĀĒ
	KAO

IF YOU'VE ANSWERED ĀĒ TO ANY OF THE PĀTAI, YOU CAN TRY THE FOLLOWING:

- The tips in the **THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR** section.
- Have a kōrero with someone who knows your tamaiti well (this could be kaiako or other whānau members).
 - Have they noticed the same things?
 - Are the kaiako using any strategies that you could also use at home? It can make a big difference when mātua & kaiako are using the same strategies.