

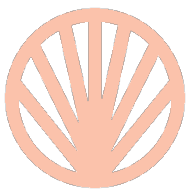
Core Practices

Supporting tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to belong, heal and thrive

A child-rich community is one where tamariki and rangatahi are valued, whānau are supported to flourish, and communities work together to create the conditions for wellbeing.

We know that children and young people thrive when they are surrounded by strong relationships, connected communities, a positive sense of identity, and systems that support healing and opportunity.

These six practices help create communities where everyone can flourish.

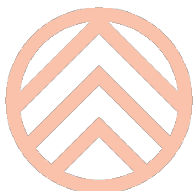


1. Engage With, Not Do-To

Tamariki, rangatahi and whānau should be active partners in shaping their communities and the decisions that affect them.

They are not problems to be solved or recipients of services. They are leaders, contributors, and experts in their own lives.

- Listen deeply to tamariki, rangatahi and whānau
- Value lived experience and local knowledge
- Share decision-making and leadership
- Design initiatives with communities, not for communities
- Create opportunities for participation and belonging

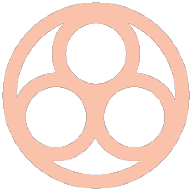


2. Build on Strengths and Potential

Every child, young person, whānau and community has strengths.

Child-rich communities focus on growing strengths, nurturing potential, and creating opportunities for people to succeed.

- Focus on what is strong, not just what is wrong
- Recognise gifts, talents and aspirations
- Encourage leadership and contribution
- Support local solutions and innovation
- Create pathways for tamariki and rangatahi to thrive

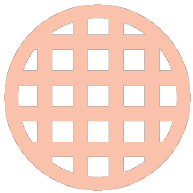


3. Strengthen Relationships, Connection and Belonging

Healthy relationships grounded in whanaungatanga are at the heart of thriving child-rich communities. Honest caring relationships with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.

Tamariki, Rangatahi and Whānau feel heard, safe, valued, and supported.

- Put relationships first. Be in it for the long haul.
- Create welcoming and inclusive spaces
- Strengthen community connections
- Support connection to culture, whakapapa, whenua and identity
- Build a sense of belonging



4. Create Systems that Support Whānau Healing

Whānau wellbeing is essential to the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi.

Many whānau experience barriers created by trauma, colonisation, poverty, discrimination, and fragmented systems. Child-rich communities work to create systems that support healing rather than create further harm.

- Design services around children and youth, not organisational needs
- Remove barriers and simplify access to support
- Build trust and uphold mana
- Use trauma-informed and culturally grounded approaches
- Support reconnection to culture, identity, community and purpose
- Create conditions that allow healing, recovery and growth



5. Work Together for Collective Impact

Creating a child-rich community is everyone's responsibility.

Meaningful change happens when whānau, hapū, iwi, schools, organisations, businesses and communities work together.

- Build strong partnerships
- Share resources, knowledge and responsibility
- Align efforts around common goals
- Support community leadership
- Work for long-term change rather than short-term fixes



6. Think and Act for Long-Term Wellbeing

The wellbeing of tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and communities is interconnected.

Child-rich communities take a long-term view and focus on creating the conditions for future generations to thrive.

- See the whole child and the whole whānau
- Support social, emotional, cultural, spiritual and physical wellbeing
- Adapt and respond to changing needs
- Invest in prevention and early support
- Focus on intergenerational wellbeing

Our Commitment

We commit to creating communities where:

- Tamariki are nurtured and valued
- Rangatahi are empowered and connected
- Whānau are supported to heal and thrive
- Culture, identity and belonging are strengthened
- Relationships are prioritised
- Systems work for people, not the other way around

Because every tamaiti and every rangatahi deserves to grow up in a community that believes in their potential, supports their whānau, and creates the conditions for them to flourish.

Kia whāngaia te rito, ka puāwai te harakeke.

When the centre shoot is nurtured, the whole flax bush will flourish.