

Learning through Talk

Ako mā te Kōrero

Kōrero (conversation) is the best way to help children learn.



Learners come to school with different language experiences – some may speak a different home language, some may have experienced mainly directives and general praise, and some may have spent a lot of time talking about their experiences and emotions.

These differences are something to be aware of, but all learners need opportunities for deeper kōrero (conversation) to develop their language skills. Support your learners to:

- ★ recount events and stories
- ★ describe objects and living things
- ★ listen and respond to others
- ★ give and receive instructions
- ★ express feelings and needs.



Strategies for learners with different home languages

- ★ Give specific support to learners' social and academic language.
- ★ Use language-learning games **with** learners before using for independent activities.
- ★ Provide and discuss home language and bilingual texts.

By the ages of 5–6, children can:

- ★ be easily understood and express their own feelings and needs
- ★ identify key points in a recount.

Opportunities for deeper kōrero:

- ★ model and explain new and interesting words
- ★ respond with correct form of child's sentence, rather than frequently correcting
- ★ encourage speaking and listening across all curriculum contexts.

By the age of 7, children can:

- ★ adjust speaking to suit audience and purpose
- ★ readily ask questions of both peers and adults.

Opportunities for deeper kōrero:

- ★ think, pair, share to encourage preparation of thoughts and ideas before sharing
- ★ model seeking clarification when sharing ideas
- ★ share thoughts and opinions on both fiction and non-fiction texts.

By the age of 8, children can:

- ★ express opinions about personal experiences
- ★ follow reasonably long stories or texts and ask clarification questions.

Opportunities for deeper kōrero:

- ★ summarise each others' ideas and recounts
- ★ negotiate and work as part of a team to fulfil tasks
- ★ record/video stories and plays for different audiences.

By the age of 9, children can:

- ★ think critically about what they've heard
- ★ talk about feelings in sophisticated ways, and reflect on events.

Opportunities for deeper kōrero:

- ★ create presentations on areas of interest
- ★ interview other people
- ★ conduct peer counselling or mediation activities.

For further information, see:

