



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



Hihira Weteoro – matching written letters to the sounds they make



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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is from the **Ministry of Education**.



The **Ministry of Education** is the part of the Government in charge of schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.



This Easy Read is about **Hihira Weteoro**.



Hihira Weteoro are a type of test your child will do in their first year at kura / school.



Hihira Weteoro happen in kura / schools that teach in te reo Māori / the Māori language.



Hihira Weteoro are like the phonics checks that schools that teach in English do.



Hihira Weteoro support kaiako / teachers to know how your child is doing at learning to read in te reo Māori / the Māori language.



You can learn more about Hihira Weteoro on this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/4z7cjx5p>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.



If you have questions about Hihira Weteoro you can talk to the:

- kaiako / teacher
- tumuaki / principal.



When you see the word **kaiako** in this Easy Read it means:

- teacher
- teachers.



When you see the word **mokopuna** in this Easy Read it means children.

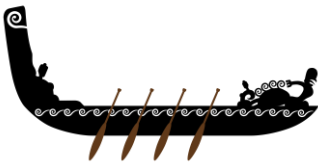
What is phonics?



Phonics is an important part of learning to read.



Phonics is being able to match written letters to the sounds they make.



An example of phonics is knowing that:

- a makes a short a sound like in waka
- ā makes a long a sound like in kākā.



In te reo Māori / the Māori language letters always make the same sound.

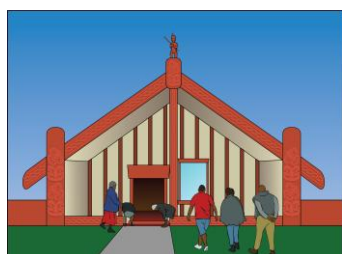


At school mokopuna learn to:

- know what sound each letter makes
- join the sounds together to make words.



Mokopuna also learn what sound 2 letters make if the 2 letters make 1 sound.



An example of 2 letters making 1 sound is wh making an f sound like in where.



Mokopuna use phonics to work out what new words say when they are reading.

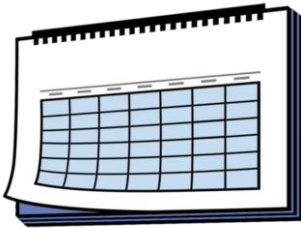


Learning to join sounds supports
mokopuna to read new words the
right way.



This supports mokopuna to be good
readers as they grow up.

What happens in Hihira Weteoro?



Your child will do Hihira Weteoro after they have been at school for:

- 20 weeks
- 40 weeks
- 55 weeks.



After 20 weeks at school your child will do a Hihira Weteoro called Te Mōhiohio Oro.



In Te Mōhiohio Oro your child will:

- listen to pairs of sounds
- decide if the sounds are:
 - the same
 - different.



After 40 weeks at school your child will do a Hihira Weteoro called Te Mōhiohio Pūriki.

In Te Mōhiohio Pūriki your child will:

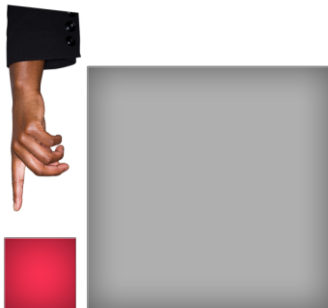


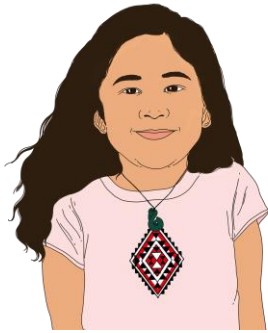
- look at **lowercase** letters
- show they know what the letter is by saying:
 - what the letter is called
 - what sound the letter makes
 - a word that starts with the letter.



Lowercase letters are small letters like:

- a
- t
- w.





Te Mōhiohio Pūriki also checks that your child knows:

- the sounds letters make
- how to use:
 - long **vowel** sounds
 - short vowel sounds
 - **consonants**.



Vowels are the letters:

- a
- e
- i
- o
- u.



Consonants are letters that are not vowels.



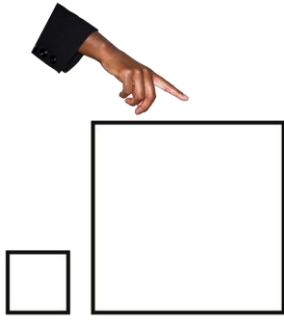
After 55 weeks at school your child will do a Hihira Weteoro called Te Mōhiohio Arapū.

In Te Mōhiohio Arapū your child will:



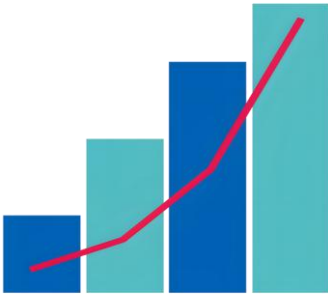
- look at:
 - lowercase letters
 - **uppercase** letters
 - **high frequency words**
- listen to words in sentences
- write down the words they hear.





Uppercase letters are big letters like:

- A
- T
- W.



High frequency words are words that are used a lot in te reo Māori / the Māori language like:

- te
- ngā.

When Hihira Weteoro start



Most kura / schools have to do Hihira Weteoro from the beginning of 2026.



Some kura / schools do not have to do Hihira Weteoro in 2026.



To find out if your child will do Hihira Weteoro you can talk to their:

- kaiako
- tumuaki / principal.

Finding out how your child did in their Hihira Weteoro



To find out how your child did in their Hihira Weteoro you can talk to their:

- kaiako
- tumuaki / principal.



The Ministry of Education will also collect **data** from Hihira Weteoro.



Here **data** means information about Hihira Weteoro like how many mokopuna pass each Hihira Weteoro.



The data will support the Ministry of Education to know how well schools are doing at teaching mokopuna to read.

Why have we started doing Hihira Weteoro?



In 2024 **Te Reo Matatini wāhanga ako** was changed.



Te Reo Matatini wāhanga ako is the part of **Te Marautanga o Aotearoa** about learning te reo Māori / the Māori language as your **first language**.



Your **first language** is the language you grow up speaking.



Te Marautanga o Aotearoa is the **curriculum** for kura / schools that teach in te reo Māori / the Māori language.



A **curriculum** is a document that says what mokopuna will learn at school.



One of the changes was adding **Rangaranga Reo ā-Tā / structured literacy in te reo Māori** to Te Reo Matatini wāhanga ako.



Rangaranga Reo ā-Tā / structured literacy in te reo Māori is a way of teaching mokopuna to:

- read in te reo Māori / the Māori language
- write in te reo Māori / the Māori language.





Hihira Weteoro will support the Ministry of Education to know if Rangaranga reo ā-Tā / structured literacy in te reo Māori is working.

How to support your child with phonics



There are lots of things you can do at home to support your child to learn phonics.



You can use phonics when you are talking to your child.

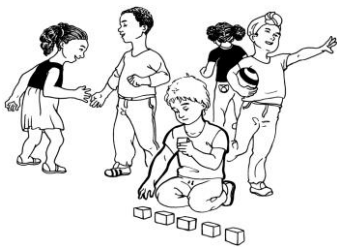


For example you can ask your child what sounds the **ingredients** start with when you are cooking.



Ingredients are the foods you put together to make a meal.

For example tomatoes are an ingredient in pasta sauce.

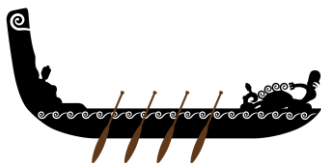


You can do **sound sorting**.



Sound sorting is an activity where you:

- print out pictures of things that start with different sounds
- ask your child to put all the pictures that start with the same sound in a pile.



For example you could print out pictures of:



- a waka
- a kākā
- wai
- kai.



Waka and wai both start with w so they would go in the same pile.

Kākā and kai both start with k so they would go in the same pile.



You can also do sound sorting with objects like toys instead of pictures.



You can:

- write easy words using:
 - letter magnets
 - letter tiles like Scrabble tiles
- ask your child to sound out the words.

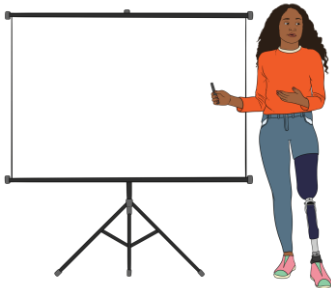


You can play the game snap using cards with letters on them.



You get snap when 2 letters match.

You can ask your child what sound the letters make.



The Ministry of Education has some slides you can use to support your child to practise phonics.



If your child is in their first 6 months at school use these slides:

<https://tinyurl.com/3bhb8t5b>



If your child is later in their first year at school use these slides:

<https://tinyurl.com/3r2fn9t8>



The slides are **not** in Easy Read.



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