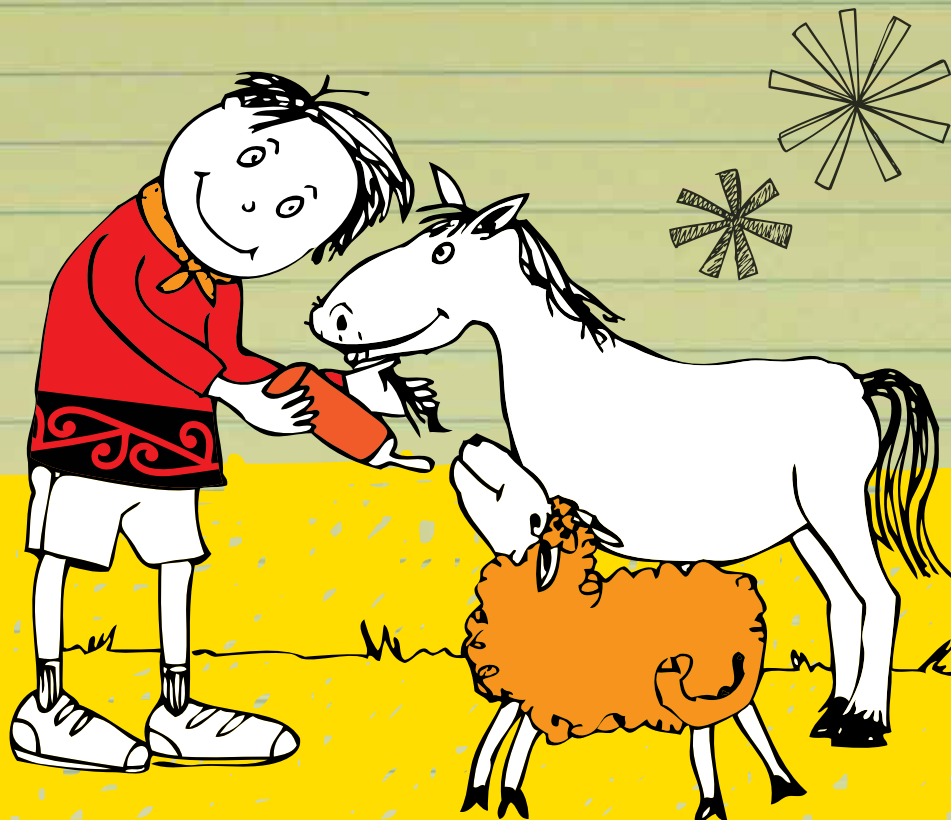


Visits and Outings

Haerenga



Trips to places outside the playgroup or visits from people to the playgroup can provide children with new experiences and increase their understanding of the world around them. It can also help children become more confident in social situations.



Outings don't have to be major – a simple walk to the park or to watch nearby road works can be interesting for children. Take your time and allow children to think about what they see. A book with photographs telling the story of the visit can be helpful for children to understand what's going on, and it provides a starting point for discussing and revisiting the experience.

Visits and Outings / Haerenga

Te Whāriki

Going on visits and having visitors supports learning across all the strands of Te Whāriki.

Visits and outings take children out of the playgroup spaces and into the world beyond. In particular, the **Contribution strand** supports children's learning with other children. The **Belonging** and **Well-being strands** encourage children to develop comfort with a moderate degree of change. Visits and outings might support learning about culture (**Communication strand**) or learning about the natural world (**Exploration Strand**).



Visits and outings help children to

- learn to question and explore
- understand what's going on around them
- learn new words based on what they see
- feel part of the community they live in.



Adults can support children by

- involving them in the planning for the trip
- supervising them on the trip
- asking questions about different things on the trip
- keeping a photographic or written record of the trip for the literacy/book area.

Ideas for places to visit

- a playground
- another playgroup
- the local library
- an airport
- a farm.

Ideas for people visiting the playgroup

- public health nurse
- toy library coordinator
- a police officer
- a fire fighter
- someone with animals, such as the SPCA.

Marae: Māori meeting places

Marae provide excellent and broad-based learning opportunities about Māori traditions and culture. A marae stay could be planned and carried out for the group, through contact with local Māori people, or a one-day visit could be arranged. Through contact with local marae, parents and children will gain more knowledge of the Māori history of their town and region.

Preparing for a trip

All parents who attend the playgroup need to know about the trip and have the opportunity to be involved. Playgroups are still required to maintain the ratio standard of at least half the children attending having a parent or caregiver present, with there being no less than one parent or caregiver for every four children whilst on a trip. Each parent or caregiver needs to be responsible for their own children. When planning the trip, make sure there are enough cars for transport and enough car restraints available for every child. On longer trips, stop part-way for a break and allow children time to explore fully.

Groups might take these things with them:

- first aid kit and any other necessary medication
- cell phone
- sunblock or other sun protection
- snacks, drinks and damp cloths to clean up sticky fingers
- tissues
- changes of clothes
- plastic bag for 'found' items and soiled clothing
- camera.

Consent form

To ensure that trips away from the normal playgroup venue are educational, safe and enjoyable there are a few things that need to be considered. Groups may want to have a consent form that is used on all trips from the playgroup. The consent form could contain all or some of the following:

Consent form // Sample

Date of trip: _____

Trip to: _____

Means of transport: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Depart from: _____

Return to: _____

Organiser: _____

Mobile: _____

Contact person while away: _____

Telephone: _____

Special notes (e.g. clothing or food required): _____

Any costs: _____

Attendance rolls are still required for trips.

The following information might also be included:

Child's name	Parent signature	Adult coming Y/N
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____