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Experiences of Māori whānau (families)
through NZ's

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Programme



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waikato

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Dr. Andrew Wood



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Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
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Worldview

A **worldview** is the overall framework through which people make sense of the world.

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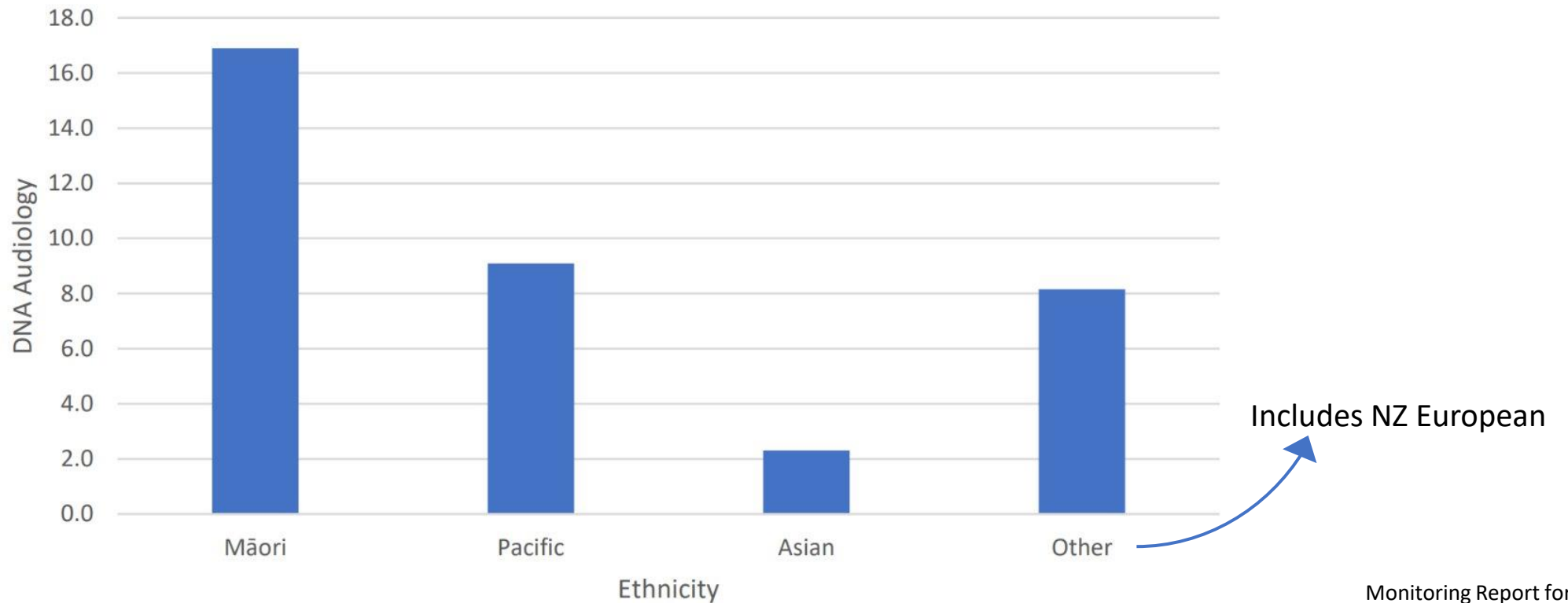
Worldview perspectives are influenced by culture, religion, philosophy, science, and personal experiences.

Different groups of people have differing worldviews.



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Engagement vs Ethnicity



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Growing Up Our Way: The First Year of Life in Remote Aboriginal Australia

(Kruske et al., 2012)



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Interpreting Diné Epistemologies and Decolonization to Improve
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(Allison-Burbank, Conn et al. 2023)



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Growing Up Our Way: The First Year of Life in Remote Aboriginal Australia

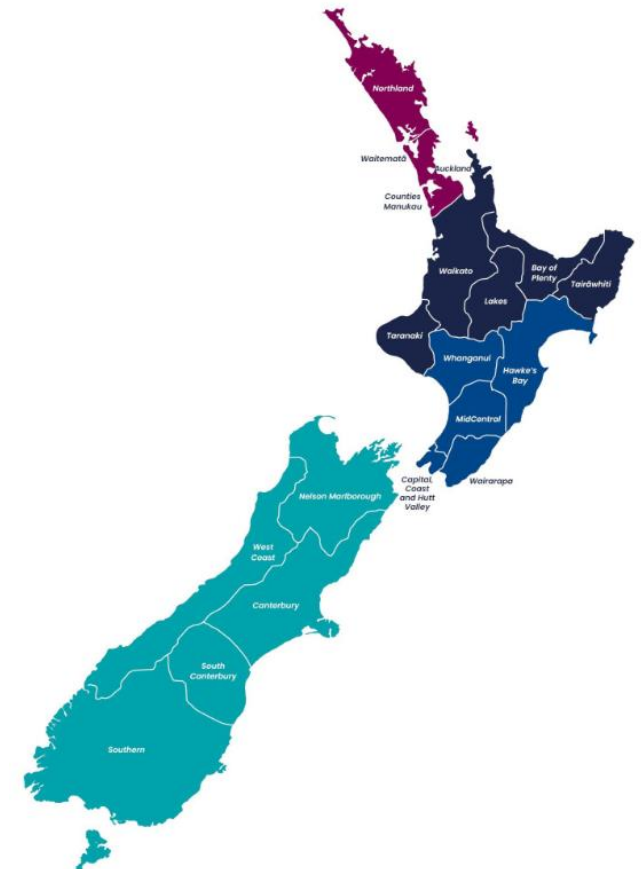
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Interpreting Diné Epistemologies and Decolonization to Improve
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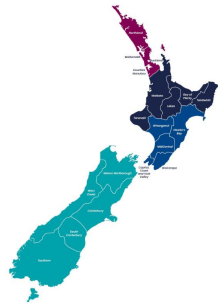
(Allison-Burbank, Conn et al. 2023)

Hapu Ora (pregnancy wellness): Maori research responses from conception,
through pregnancy and 'the first 1000 days'

(Edmonds et al., 2022)



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High Respect for Infants



Born with innate mana (dignity).

“He tangi to te tamariki, he whakama to te pakeke” (when the child cries, the elder blushes).

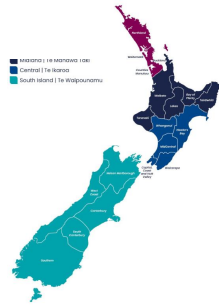
(Jones, Barber et al. 2017)

...children are **autonomous** decision makers from birth...

If the infant cried, or even whimpered, the family members were obliged to respond.

(Kruske et al., 2012)

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Wider Family Units

Whānau, were traditionally made up of three generations. Interdependence was encouraged.

(Hickey 2017; Highfield, Webber et al. 2023)

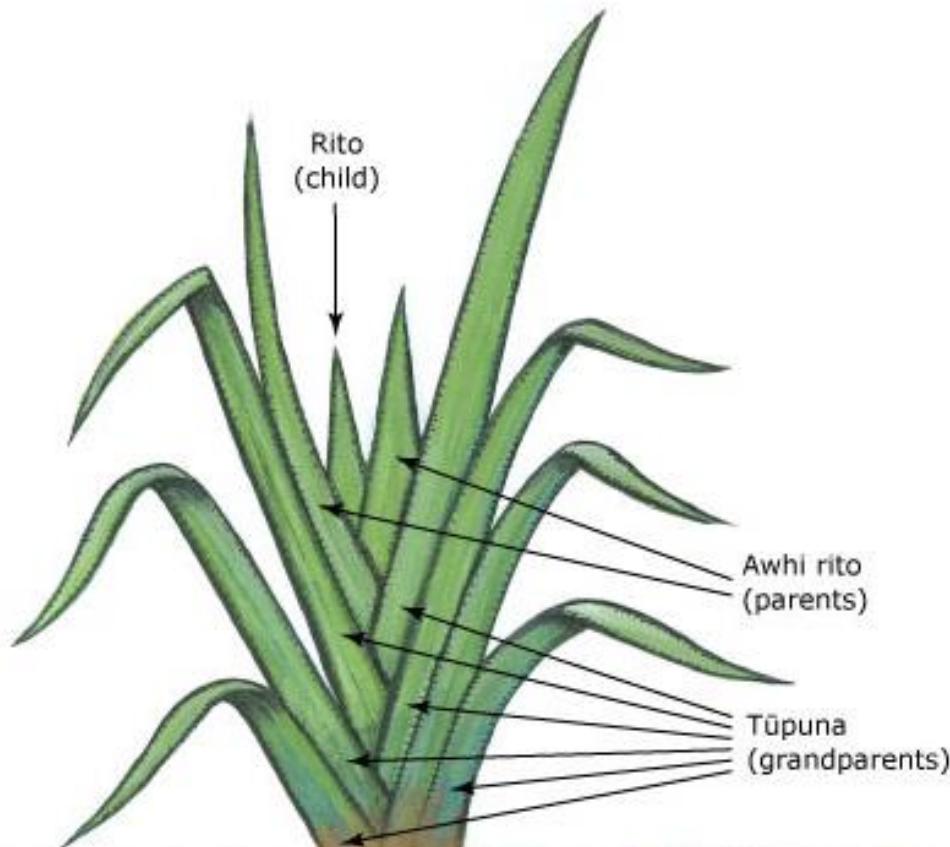


Aboriginal kinship structures.

(Bailey and Clark 2024)

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Interdependence is encouraged within whānau unit.



Whānau ora is unique and celebrated, as it is a NZ health policy which places culturally appropriate value on the whānau working as a whole.

(McDonald Moewaka Barnes 2013; Penehira and Doherty 2013)

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Whānau (families') experiences with EHDI

Families the researcher already had rapport with.

Families who recently journeyed through EHDI.

Small rural hospital.

Employed a research assistant who was Māori, and lived locally.

Semi-structured interviews.

A Kaupapa Māori informed approach:

- face to face *kanohi me te kanohi*
- food and chat *kai me te korero*
- location of their choice *manaakitanga or caring and hosting*
- care of their dependants was considered.
- strengths based



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Six Themes:

Understanding hearing loss in infancy and the purpose of early intervention.

“All kids want to feel normal”.

Wellbeing of the main carer.

Integrating Mātauranga Māori into EHDI.

Complexity of the Journey.

Strategies which support early intervention.

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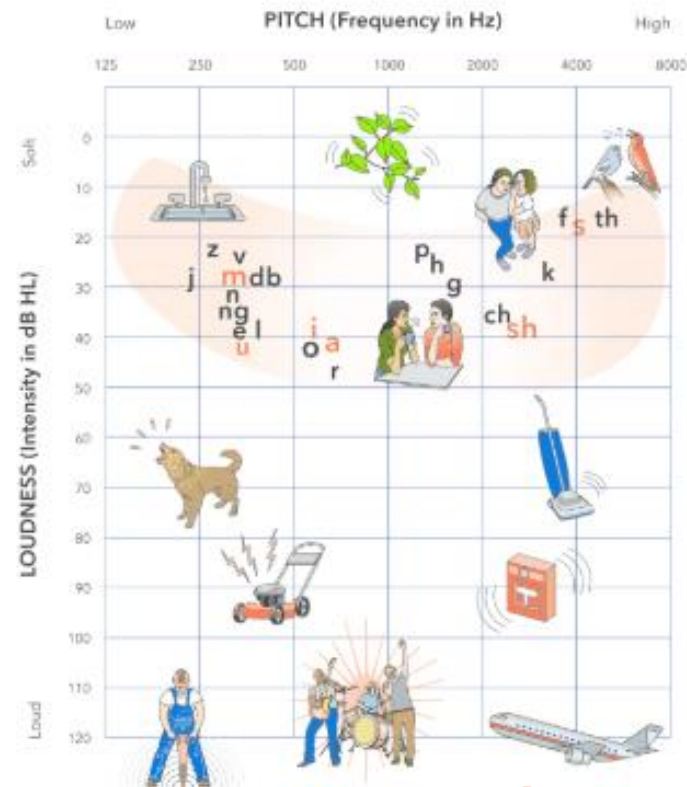
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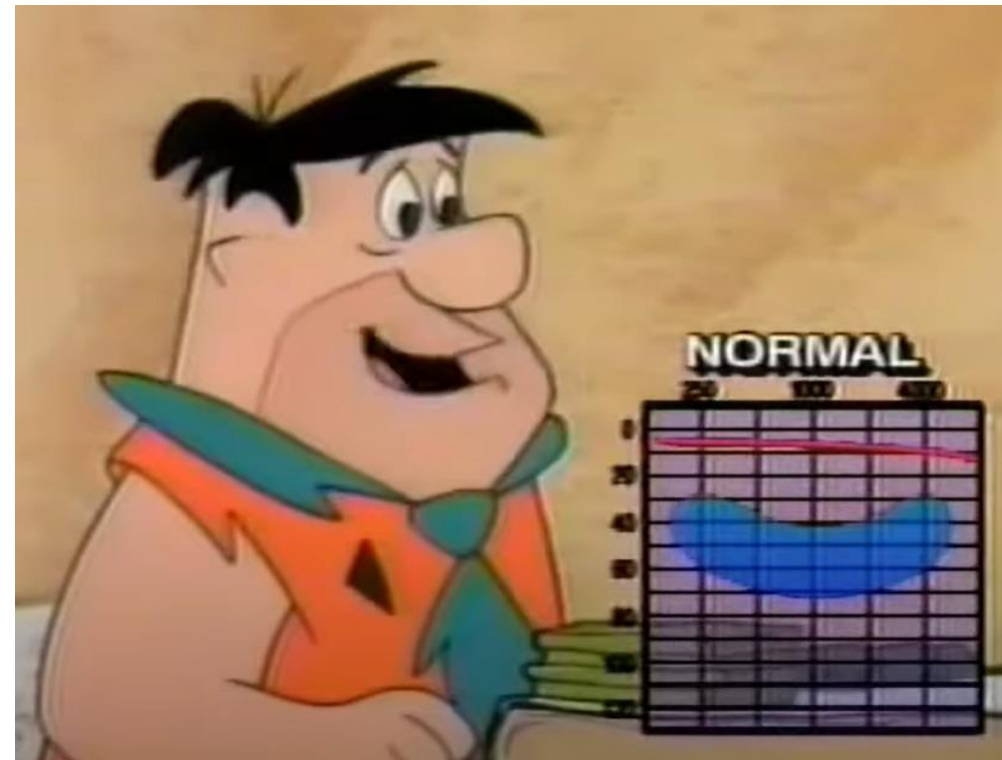
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YouTube Sketch

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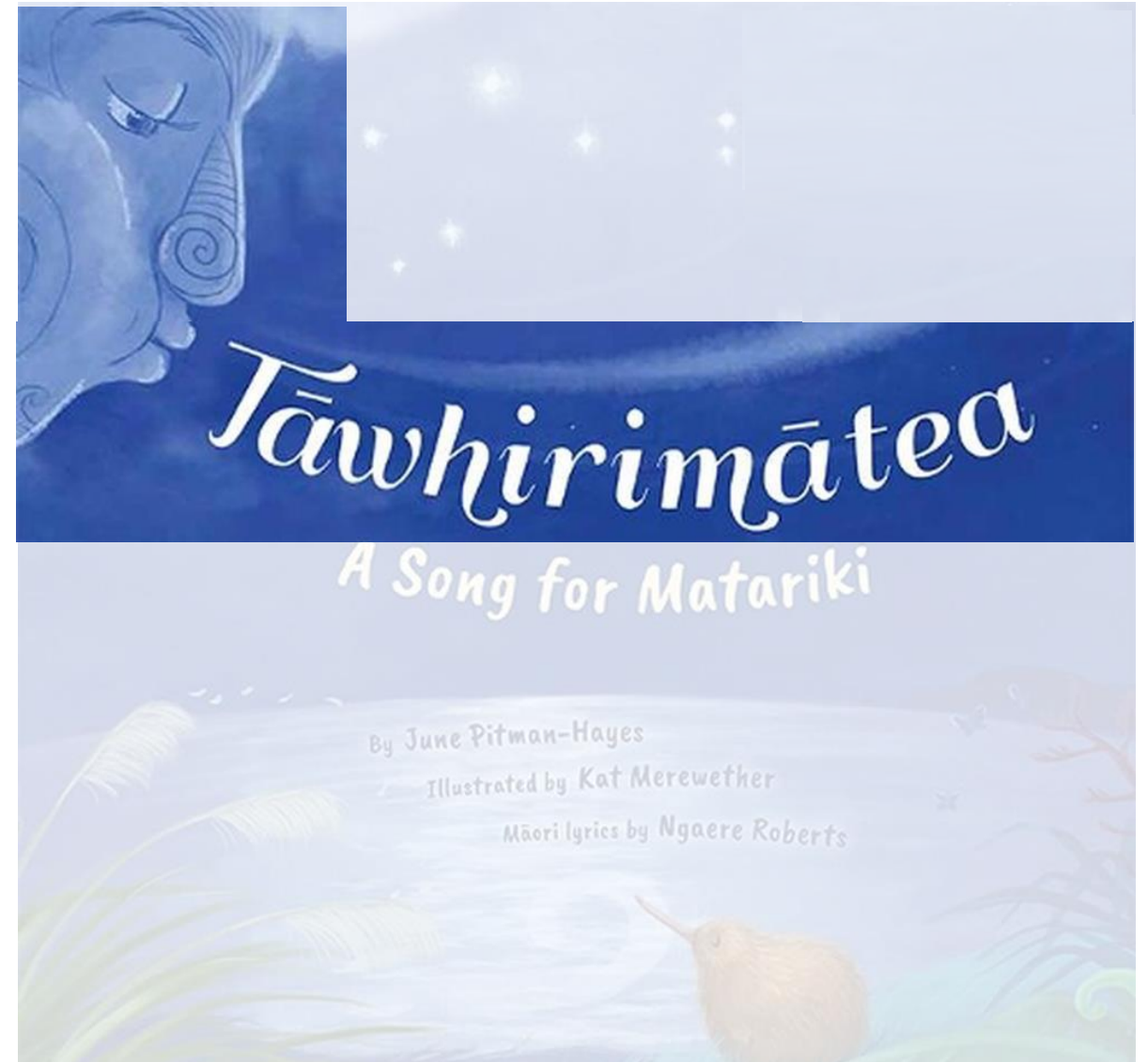
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You put your gumboots on to play in the mud.
You put your “earrings” on to talk with me.

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“Taking care of mum helps mum to take care of their baby.”

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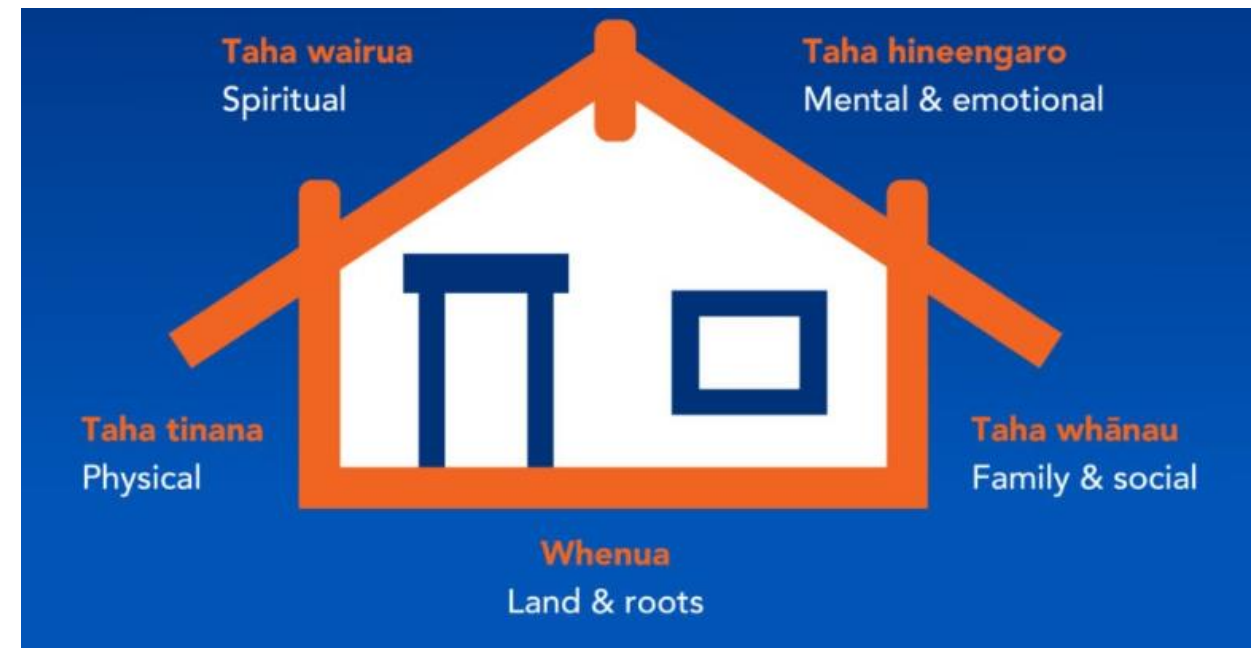
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Holistic Worldview

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“Hui”

Group gathering, facilitating peer support.



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Relational Worldview

“Hui”

Group gathering, facilitating peer support.



(Heke, 2019)

(McKelvie-Sebileau, 2022)

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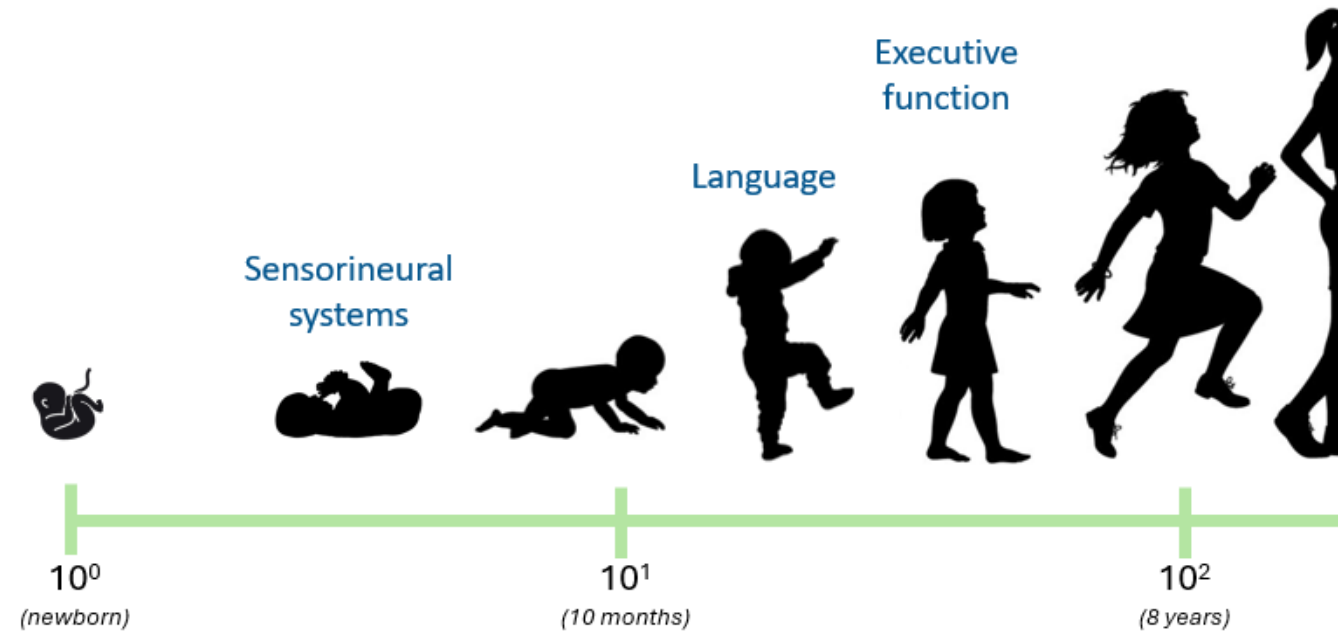
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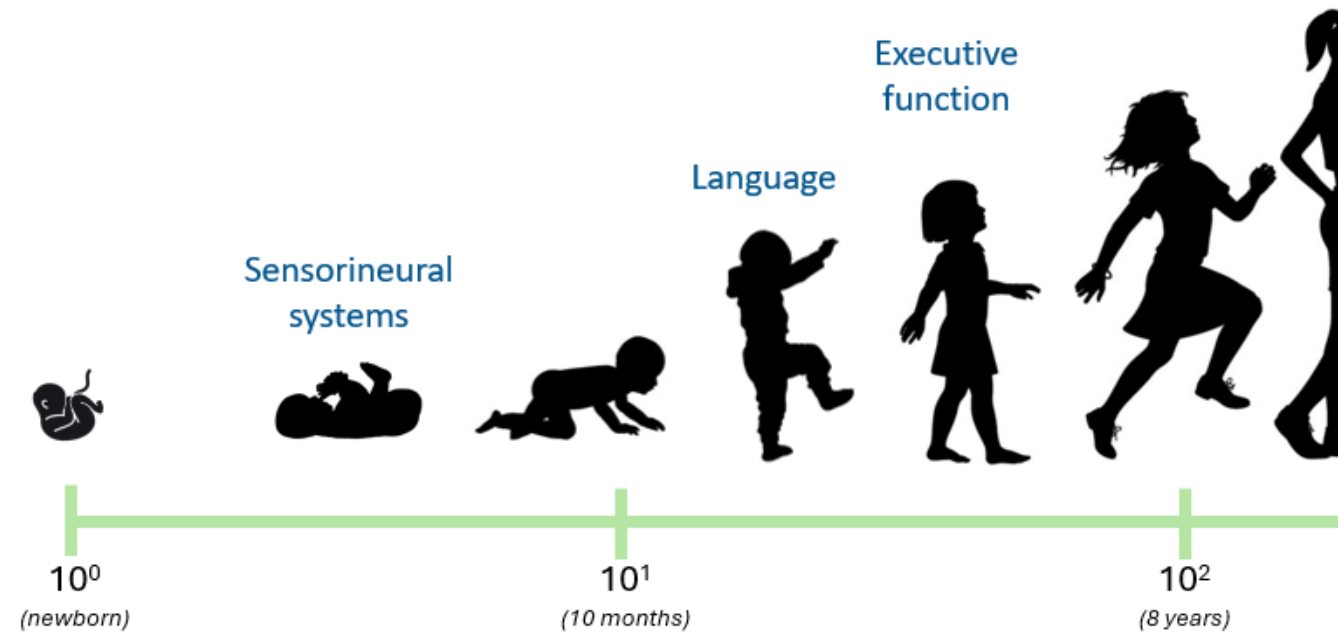
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Te Ao Huihuri (the turmoil of a changing world).

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Timing of the intervention.



The whole whānau unit.



‘Tough love’.



Seeing the child in their ‘everyday space’.

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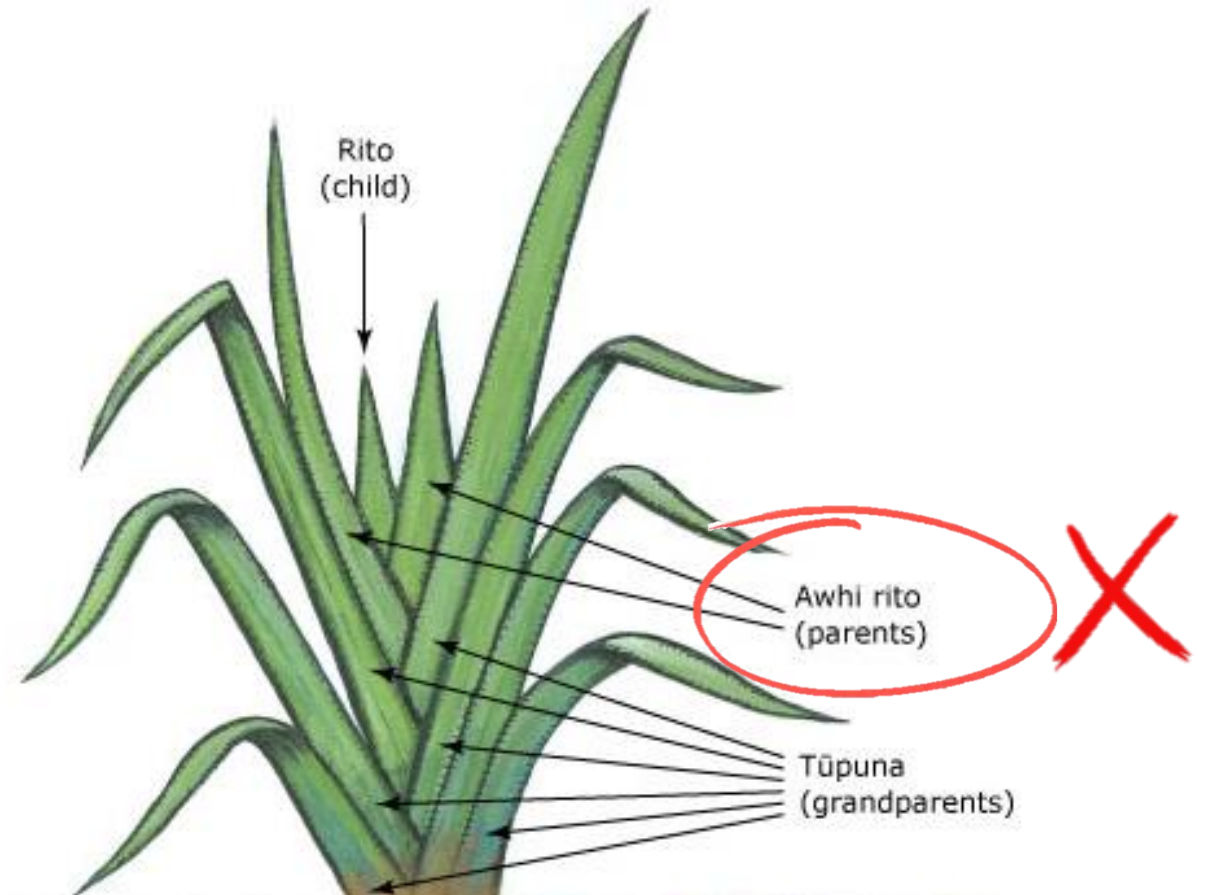
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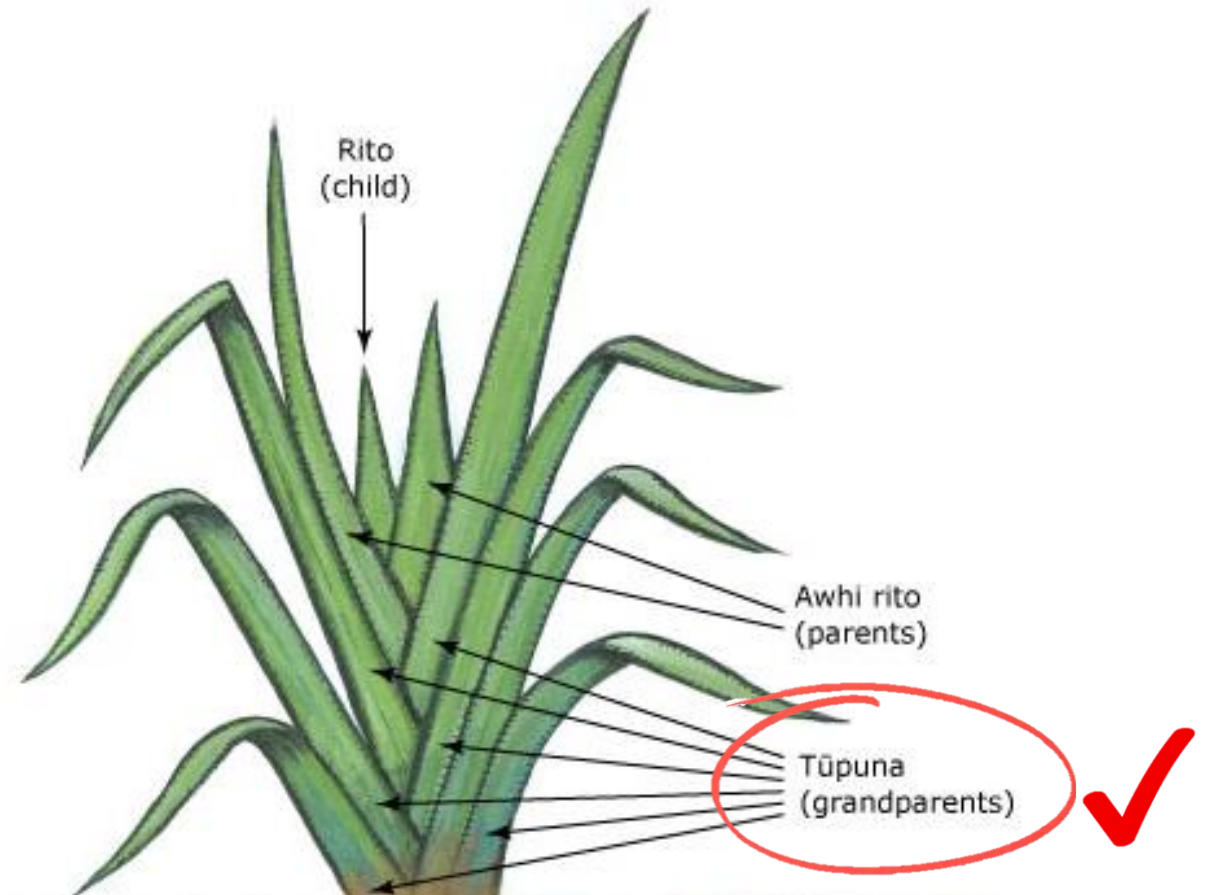
“My Nana would be on to that!”



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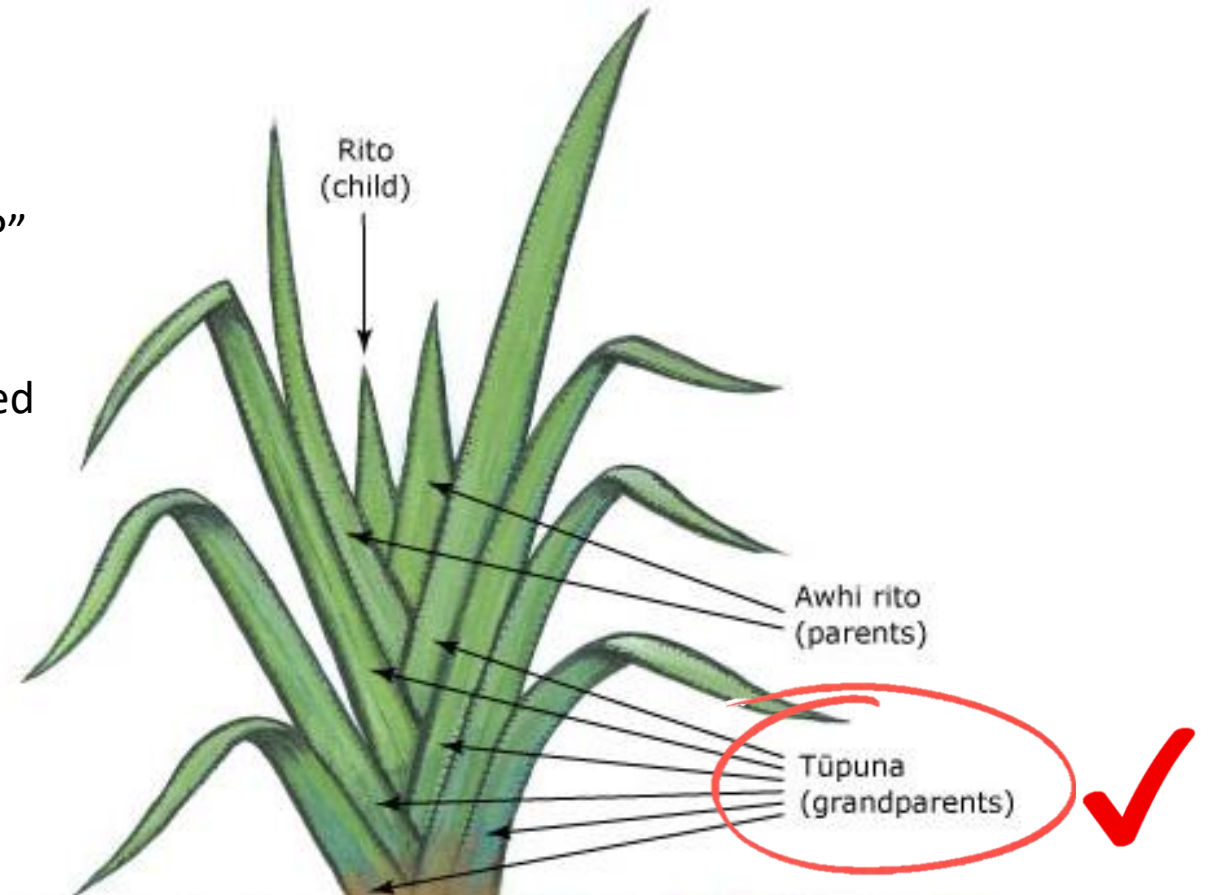
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Trusted adult in the wider family:

Research Interviewer: “And she [Mum] was ok with that?”

Rimu: “Yep.

...oh most of the time it had to be done after I was finished work, so I could be there, because she didn't like the kids having their vaccinations, she **[Mum] didn't like them crying, that would freak her out.**”



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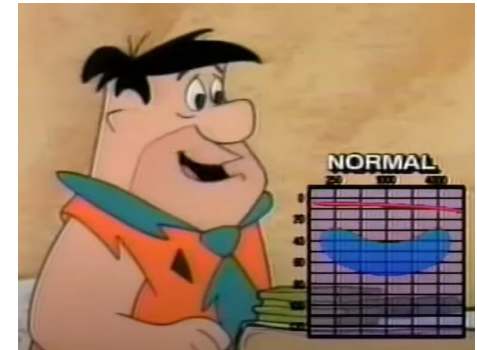
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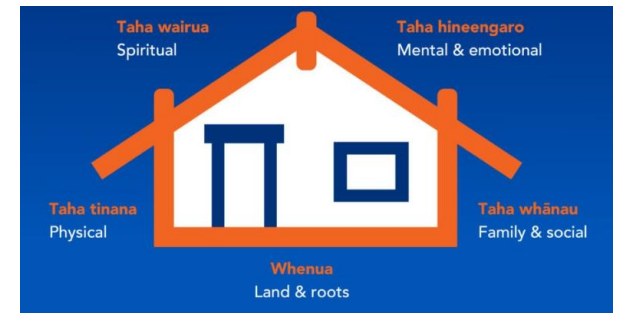
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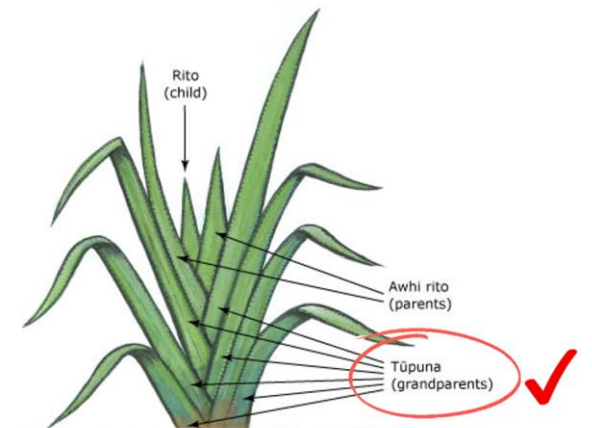
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3. Families want Hui (gatherings).



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Take home points:

1. Explanations need to draw on the family's existing knowledge.
2. The mental and emotional well being of the main carer.
3. Families want Hui (gatherings).
4. Work with the whole family, will improve success for the infant.



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Experiences and opinions of whānau of Māori infants with hearing loss:
“Seeing the whole, everything...instead of just the one side of it.”

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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03036758.2024.2399340>



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REVIEW ARTICLE






OPEN ACCESS



Check for updates

A treatment-focused approach to medical investigations for hearing loss in infants

Genevieve Choi  ^{a,b,c}, Holly Teagle ^{a,c,d}, Suzanne Purdy  ^e and Andrew Wood  ^{b,f}



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