

# Ngā wāhi hei arotahi | Areas to focus on

Across this guide we have noted recommendations to improve the support available during middle childhood.

Below we highlight major, overarching recommendations, through our Te Whāriki lens. These will not capture all the gaps in the structures currently working to empower five to 12-year-olds in New Zealand. However we believe that it's crucial that these areas of focus are addressed to enable a holistic approach to development during middle childhood.

Principle	Mana Atua   Wellbeing	Mana Whenua   Belonging	Mana Tangata   Contribution	Mana Reo   Communication	Mana Aotūroa   Exploration
<b>Kotahitanga   Holistic Development</b>	Children's wellbeing is supported through understanding of holistic approaches to child development and investment in appropriate service delivery	Children's holistic development is supported through a strong sense of belonging	Children's contribution to society is reflected in the value we place on research and engagement with this age group	Middle childhood is prioritised in training and research	Children's development is supported through research and current, contextually-appropriate theories of child development
<b>Whānau Tangata   Family &amp; Community</b>	Children experience a standard of living that enables them to thrive and are protected from all harm	Children experience belonging through participating in and feeling respected within their communities	Children have opportunities to develop leadership within education and extra-curricular settings	Children have opportunities to speak up about the issues that matter to them	Play is prioritised for children during the middle years - in education, in guidance for parents, and in our neighbourhoods and communities
<b>Ngā Hononga   Relationships</b>	Children experience safe, positive relationships with whānau, peers and others in their communities	Children's sense of belonging is strengthened through connection to people and place	Children participate in and experience healthy peer relationships and are supported to navigate experiences of bullying safely	Children's development is supported by a skilled and valued workforce, who are equipped to support the current experience of childhood	Intergenerational relationships are accessible and encouraged for all tamariki to support their development
<b>Whakamana   Empowerment</b>	Frameworks support children's wellbeing through protection from harm, adequate standard of living and the removal of barriers that prevent their thriving	Legislation and policy reflect children's belonging and inherent dignity	Children have opportunity to express themselves and contribute in society	Children are shown respect in the way we as a society talk about them and invite their perspective	Children's exploration and thriving is fostered through Ministries that demonstrate best practice and innovation