



Ideas for exploring



Activity: Waka Huia – Traditional treasure container

Kaitiaki Pēpi Te Kākano pp19 & 23

Objectives:

- 1) Increase familiarity with *Whakatipu*
- 2) Understand the significance of Waka Huia
- 3) Explore and identify personal parenting ‘treasures’

Waka Huia are traditional Māori treasure containers. These stored a person’s most precious taonga. Waka huia were highly prized and carefully treasured as they were passed between generations as heirlooms. They were often gifted between hapū, whānau and individuals to acknowledge relationships, friendships, and other significant social events.

Activity: Discuss:

What sort of items may have been put into a traditional waka huia? (Often personal adornment items, hei tiki, heru, feathers (esp. tail feathers huia) for decorating/dressing hair, considered tapu through their contact with the body esp. the head.

Is there an equivalent taonga in your culture?

Instructions in Te Kākano p23 re creating a Waka Huia to hold treasures for pēpi.

Extension: You could have an example already made and ask each person to add a written/drawn treasure relating to their up-bringing. **What I treasured about my Dad/Mum/Koro etc.**

The waka huia could be used as the vessel to **collect feedback** from group - **A ‘treasure’ I’ve learned today that I will take with me into my parenting is...**

Options: As above but fill the waka huia with a range of items/tokens could be household /personal that participants select to represent something/someone **they treasured from their childhoods.**

Resources used:

A shoe box/ container with a lid.

Stationery supplies e.g. glue, scissors, coloured paper etc.

Range of items for ‘decorating’ e.g. stickers, pens, shells, beads etc.