



**Whā: Tikanga**

**Tikanga**

**Curriculum Links**

Science    The Arts    Learning Languages  
 Health and Physical Education    Mathematics and Statistics  
 English    Social Sciences

***'Mehemea ka hē taku tamaiti nāku anō te hē'***

***"If my child does something wrong it is not them who is to blame, it is me because I have not taught them well enough"***

Tikanga Māori is a common sense guide on how a person should correctly act in any given situation. It is an all encompassing concept that governs one's life.

Tikanga Māori places an emphasis on adult family members, maybe significant adults in today's world such as teachers, being responsible for teaching children the right way to do things.

The central belief of tikanga is that if a family/adults give a child LOVE and takes the TIME to demonstrate or model "Best practice" across the spectrum of life, the investment creates a balanced adult who respects themselves, others and the world around them. The person will take care of himself, those that he/she is responsible for and when they grow old those that loved him when he was young. Tikanga Māori creates a self perpetuating cycle of wellness.

The origins of the saying "Spare the rod, spoil the child" are tied up with tikanga because the rod was a set of rules that guided how a family might best bring up their children.

***'Tangata ako ana i te whare, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana'***

***A person who is taught at home will stand collected on the marae. Or a child, who is given proper values at home and cherished within the family, will not only behave well amongst the family, but also with society and throughout his life.***

Tikanga is a much wider concept than the common interpretation of Maori customs, practices and values.

Within tikanga all the land, sky, water and endemic and native lifeforms are taonga tuku iho (treasures). We are connected through whakapapa and we humans are dependent on the others. This is why we are conscious of not abusing and being great-full for the use of resources in our environment. This leads on to recognising that without the past there is no present and both the past and present effects the future.

While there are universal interpretations on some subjects, tikanga are often iwi and sometimes hapū based to reflect the specific history and environment of a people.

Tikanga Māori is all about prevention rather than cure.

Tikanga includes all of the topics within this section of Iti Kahurangi.

**Go to Akona Rangitāne to find a downloadable poster featuring tikanga explanations for commonly used situations.**