



Tēnā koe

## Updated *Te Whāriki* – early learning curriculum

It is my pleasure to present you with the updated early learning curriculum, *Te Whāriki* (2017). *Te Whāriki*, New Zealand's world leading early childhood curriculum, has shaped the early learning landscape in New Zealand for the past 20 years. It has been updated to better reflect today's world including changes in educational theory and practice and the aspirations we hold for the future.

*Te Whāriki* consists of two documents in one publication: *Te Whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa Early childhood curriculum* and *Te Whāriki a te Kōhanga Reo*. The two documents share a common framework of principles and strands while describing two distinct curriculum pathways of equal status. *Te Whāriki* continues to be unique in its bicultural framing.

*Te Whāriki* expresses our vision that all children grow up as competent and confident learners, strong in their identity, language and culture.

The update was carried out by a group of early learning academics and practitioners from a range of different contexts. The original writers of *Te Whāriki* and Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust assisted with the update.

*Te Whāriki* sets out clear links to the *New Zealand Curriculum* and *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* so that children can be better supported as they transition from one learning environment to another. The principles, strands, goals and learning outcomes of *Te Whāriki* provide a basis for designing local curriculum that support every child to be competent, confident and eager to learn as they travel along their educational pathway. It is a visionary document with a focus on the development of capabilities that empower all children as life-long learners.

I encourage every early learning service in New Zealand to engage fully with *Te Whāriki*. It supports every early learning service to collaborate with their parents, whānau and communities to provide a rich curriculum of relationships and experiences that enable our youngest learners to succeed.

Ngā mihi

Iona Holsted  
Secretary for Education