



Peer-reviewed paper

Te Ira Atua: The spiritual spark of the child

Lesley Rameka
University of Waikato

“E ai ki tā te Māori he atua tonu kei roto i te mokopuna ina whānau mai ana ia ki tēnei ao” (Ministry of Education, 1996, p. 35). This quote is from the New Zealand Ministry of Education’s early childhood curriculum policy statement, *Te Whāriki: He Whāriki Matauranga mo ngā Mokopuna o Aotearoa/Early Childhood Curriculum* (Ministry of Education, 1996). It speaks of the godliness or spiritual essence each child inherits from their ancestors when they are born (Early Childhood Development, 1999; Reedy, 2003). From a traditional Māori perspective, not only is the child endowed with spiritual potential or a divine spirit, but the world the child is born into is also endowed with spiritual influences.

Introduction

Te Whāriki translates as *a woven mat* that allows for diverse patterning depending on knowledge bases, beliefs, and values, which all may stand upon. *Te Whāriki* is a bicultural document, an example of how traditional Māori and *Pākehā* (New Zealanders of British descent) values, concepts, worldviews, and philosophies have been integrated into a modern, bicultural, educational document. Understandings of Māori ways of knowing the world and the child are integral to the curriculum document and important for the wellbeing of the Māori child. *Te Whāriki* highlights the need to weave the cognitive, social, physical emotional and spiritual dimensions of the child in a holistic and meaningful manner. It states, “the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of growth are all important to enable children to develop confidence in themselves and their abilities” (MoE, 1996, p. 94). Furthermore, the document emphasises that learning and development will be integrated through:

- recognition of the spiritual dimension of children’s lives in culturally, socially and individually appropriate ways; and
- recognition of the significance and contribution of previous generations to the child’s concept of self (Ministry of Education, 1996, p. 41).

Despite these statements, there is little to indicate that the spiritual dimensions of the child, or the world, are acknowledged and reflected in early childhood education practice (Bone, 2007). Bone’s research found that the whole topic of spirituality within New Zealand early childhood practice tended to be unarticulated, unless the service had a particular philosophy that acknowledged spirituality (Bone 2007). This inattention to the spiritual is due, I believe, to the nature of modern Western society, which is essentially secular, leaving little room for ideas and beliefs of the sacred or spiritual. Western science has effectively disconnected spirituality from other aspects of individual and



institutional existence, and has embedded belief systems that position reason, truth and logic over faith and spirituality. As spirituality cannot be proven scientifically, it is often viewed as illogical and unsophisticated and therefore has no place in educational theory and practice (Bone, 2007; Lyotard, 1996). Ife (1995) makes the point that the absence of the spiritual denies an important facet of human existence.

This paper explores the spiritual dimensions of traditional Māori ways of knowing the world and the child. It makes connections to traditional Māori perceptions of the creation of the world, the connectedness of the person to the creation of the world (*whakapapa*), the conceptualisation of the world (*wairuatanga*) and their importance to the wellbeing and holistic dimensions of the child. It then discusses Māori ways of knowing the child, the spiritual nature of the child and the traits each child inherits, including *tapu*, *mana*, *mauri* and *wairua*. It emphasises the importance of these traits to the wellbeing and development of the child, acknowledging the interconnectedness of the physical and the spiritual, and the connection to previous generations. Finally it discusses implications for the children's wellbeing within early childhood education.

Māori ways of knowing the world

Traditional Māori ways of knowing the world and the genealogy of creation begin with *Io taketake* (the originator) and evolve through different spheres of development until the present day. The following is an example of these spheres.

<i>I te tīmatanga, kō te kore</i>	In the beginning there was a void
<i>Kō te pō</i>	Within the void was the night
<i>Nā te pō</i>	From within the night, seeds were cultivated
<i>Ka puta kō te kukune</i>	It was here that movement began – the stretching
<i>Kō te pupuke</i>	There the shoots enlarged and swelled
<i>Kō te hihiri</i>	Then there was pure energy
<i>Kō te mahara</i>	Then there was the subconscious
<i>Kō te manako</i>	Then the desire to know
<i>Ka puta i te whei ao</i>	Movement from darkness to light, from conception to birth
<i>Ki te ao mārama</i>	From the learning comes knowing
<i>Tihei Mauriora</i>	I sneeze and there is life

(Ministry of Education, 2009, p. 4)

Ranginui (the sky father) and *Papatūānuku* (the earth mother), are next in line, followed by their children. There are variations in the accounts of the numbers of children born to *Ranginui* and *Papatūānuku*; however, it is generally accepted that there were at least six main *atua*, guardians or gods, who received authority over certain domains of life. They include *Tūmatauenga* (guardian of war), *Tangaroa* (guardian of the oceans), *Tawhirimatea* (guardian of the weather), *Rongomātāne* and *Haumia tiketike* (guardians of food), and *Tane* (guardian of the forests). Māori trace their genealogy or *whakapapa* back to *Tāne*, to the world of the gods and to the creation of the universe (Barlow, 1996; Reilly, 2004; Te Rito, 2007).



Whakapapa (genealogy)

Whakapapa informs these genealogical relationships and provides the foundation for inherent connectedness and interdependence to all things (Cheung, 2008). From a Māori perspective, people are not superior but related through *whakapapa* to all aspects of the environment, themselves imbued with spiritual elements. According to Barlow (1991), *whakapapa* is the genealogy of all living things from the gods to the present day. It is the basis for organising knowledge related to the creation and development of all things. Spiritual connectedness and spirituality have always been inextricably linked to *whakapapa* (Broughton, 1993; Ihimaera, 2004; Moeke-Pikering, 1996; Tse, Lloyd, Petchkovsky & Manaia, 2005). All aspects within a Māori worldview are viewed as having spiritual origins and direct links to the gods (Berryman, 2008). Māori can trace genealogy back to *Papatūānuku* (the earth mother); therefore, they not only live on the land but are part of the land (Ministry of Justice, 2001). Wolfgramm and Waetford (2009) state, “the dynamic and intimate interrelationships between the spiritual, social and natural worlds and the indeterminacy of evolutionary processes in a Māori worldview are captured through creation stories which include layers of symbolism and metaphor” (p. 5). *Whakapapa* identifies who one is, where one is from and thus identifies the place one belongs (Graham, 2009). It connects Māori to the land providing a sense of unity and harmony with the environment. It has been viewed as verification of the continued existence of Māori not only as a people, but also as *tangata whenua* (people of the land) in *Aotearoa*, New Zealand. It affirms kin ties to *iwi*, *hapū*, and *whānau* (tribe, sub-tribe and extended family) and to *tūrangawaewae* (tribal lands). It reifies connections to past generations and those generations to come, and asserts that Māori will continue to exist as long as the land continues to exist (Ministry of Justice, 2001; Williams, 2004).

It is to do with that sense of being essentially at one with nature and our environment, rather than at odds with it. As *tangata whenua* we are people of the land – who have grown out of the land, *Papatūānuku*, our Earth Mother. Having knowledge of *whakapapa* helps ground us to the earth. We have a sense of belonging here, a sense of purpose, a *raison d’être*, which extends beyond the sense of merely existing on this planet. (Te Rito, 2007, p. 4)

Wairuatanga (spirituality)

A Māori perspective of the world maintains that all things have a physical as well as a spiritual body, including the earth, birds and animals. It is an expression of the relationship between the physical and the spiritual and the wholeness of life. In its broadest sense, *wairuatanga* refers to the spiritual dimension, which is internalised in each person from conception (Metge, 1976). The concept of *wairuatanga* is derived from Māori cosmology. The term literally means two waters, the spiritual and the physical. Love (2004) describes *wairuatanga* as two streams merging as a river, with a current, eddies and ebbs. *Wairuatanga* recognises that all aspects of the Māori world have an ever-present spiritual dimension, which pervades all Māori values. The spiritual and the secular are not closed or separate from each other but are intimately connected with activities in the everyday material world coming under the influence and interpenetrated by spiritual powers from the higher world, the spiritual world (Marsden, 2003; Ministry of Justice, 2001; Reilly, 2004; Shirres, 1997). In this



way people are inherently connected with the universe, with the world of spiritual powers, the world of the gods.

It also means that those that have passed on, whilst existing within the spiritual realm, still remain in the physical, alongside the living as well as within the living. Ancestors who have passed on live with their descendants in the everyday world, and this is recognised in the way Māori conduct their lives (Ministry of Justice, 2001). “[T]he spirits of the dead or living are accepted as real phenomena whereas life is seen as a transitory process moving from body-to-body and generation-to-generation. Time has no boundaries; it is both past and present” (Tse, Lloyd, Petchkovsky & Manaia, 2005, p. 183). The past, present and future are viewed as intertwined, and life is seen as a continuous cosmic process. Within this frame the spiritual is integrated into the secular, and spiritual matters are dealt with in the course of everyday matters (Butterworth, n.d.); Ministry of Justice, 2001; Patterson, 1992). Cody (2004) claims that spirituality from a Māori perspective includes the practice and belief that acknowledge the spirit or *wairua* of all things Māori. It pervades all aspects of Māori culture and is recognised as a critical factor in Māori views of self.

Spiritual beliefs are a central feature of a person’s overall wellbeing and identity. Patterson (1992) argues that from a western perspective the past is behind and one’s goals and aspirations relate to the future, which is ahead. From a Māori perspective, the opposite is the case and the past is ahead, not behind. It is therefore in the past that one finds one’s models, inspiration and guides. This conceptualisation of history, time, of the continuous cosmic movement does not leave the past behind; rather, one carries one’s past into the future. The past therefore is central to and shapes both present and future identity. The strength of carrying one’s past into the future is that ancestors are ever present and one’s place in the kin group is acknowledged and affirmed (Patterson, 1992).

Māori ways of knowing the child

Whakapapa connects the Māori child through their parents to generations of ancestors, and to the spirit world of the gods. The spirits of people come from the *Rangi Tūhāhā*, the twelve dimensions of enlightenment in the company of the gods. This is where the spirits exist until they are required for the physical life of the person and where the spirit returns to after physical death (Barlow, 1991). The physical and spiritual potential of the person are joined at conception becoming an individual entity, endowed with spiritual qualities. From ancestors the child inherits spiritual traits fundamental to their wellbeing, spiritual, psychological, and social (Mead, 2003). These spiritual traits include but are not limited to: *tapu*, *mana mauri*, and *wairua*.

Tapu

Mead (2003) translates *tapu* as “being with potentiality for power” (p. 32). According to Mead, personal *tapu* is the person’s most important spiritual attribute. It is pervasive, influencing all other attributes, and is akin to a personal force field that can be felt and sensed by others. It is the sacred life force that reflects the state of the whole person. Elsdon Best (1922) linked *tapu* with the notion of spiritual and intellectual potential, when he claimed:



Man is of supernatural descent, from the personified forms of natural phenomena, the soul coming originally from Io (the first of the gods); hence man has a modicum of *ira atua* (supernatural life); this divine spark (*mauriora*) is very *tapu*, it represents man's true vitality, his physical, mental, moral and spiritual welfare; the spark must be protected from pollution. (Best, 1922, cited in Patterson, 1992, p. 84)

Mana

Whereas *tapu* is the potentiality for power, *mana* is the actual power, the realisation of the *tapu* of the person. *Mana* at a basic level can be translated as "authority, control, influence, prestige, power, psychic force, effectual, binding, authoritative . . . and take effect" (Hemara, 2000, p. 68). It also has a deeper meaning of 'spiritual power and authority' (Love, 2004). *Mana* is a crucial aspect of Māori perceptions of the world and of the self, with almost all activities linked to upholding and enhancing *mana*. Understandings of *mana* are therefore critical to an understanding of the Māori person or child, and the Māori world (Shirres, 1997).

All children are born with an increment of *mana* from their parents and ancestors (Hemara, 2000; Marsden, 1992; Mead, 2003; 2003; Metge, 1995; Shirres 1997). *Mana* is accrued and actioned through one's service to *whānau* and the wider community, including *hapū* and *iwi* (Keelan, 2006). Shirres (1997) explains that *mana* is the power of being, a being that is realised over time. Paul-Burke (2011) adds that "Mana is derived from the spiritual dimension and humans are merely the vessels through which mana flows and manifests itself" (p.14). *Mana* can only be present if the vessel in which it resides has *mauri* or life-force or life-energy. *Mauri* is a requirement for life itself. As Satterfield, Roberts, Henare, Finucane, & Henare (2005) explain, "Our belief is that there's *wairua* and *tinana* . . . *wairua* is the spiritual part of the person and *tinana* is the physical side. Now you need something to join them together . . . it's the *mauri*" (p.28).

Mauri

Mauri is inherently related with other metaphysical characteristics, including *tapu*, *mana* and *wairua*. *Mauri* is a generic life force. All living things have a *mauri* and all things are connected. *Mauri* is the spark of life, the active element that indicates one is alive (Barlow, 1991; Mead, 2003). It is an essential and inseparable aspect of the child. It is an active sign of life, an attribute of self. The Māori child is born with *mauri*, which remains with them all their lives. When the child is physically and socially healthy, the *mauri* is in a state of balance, known as *Mauri tau* (the *mauri* is at peace). It is therefore important to nurture and protect the *mauri* of the child (Mead, 2003).

The *mauri* is the life force that is bound to an individual and represents the active force of life which enables the heart to beat, the blood to flow, food to be eaten and digested, energy to be expended, the limbs to move, the mind to think and have some control over the body systems, and the personality of the person to be vibrant, expressive and impressive. (Mead, 2003, p. 53)



Wairua

Whereas *mauri* is bound to the person and ceases to exist when the person dies, *wairua* can leave the body and lives on after the person dies. The immortality of *wairua* means that these spirits of departed humans live on forever and can be summoned to assist their living descendants. *Wairua* has been compared to the shadow of a person that interacts with the spiritual world and warns of possible danger (Love, 2004). *Wairua* is an unseen energy that impacts upon all aspects of a person's being and is according to Durie (1985) an essential dimension of Māori health. All children are born with *wairua* which can be translated as 'soul' or 'spirit' (Mead, 2003, p. 54). There are four characteristics of *wairua*:

- it is part of the whole person;
- it is immortal;
- it has the power to warn of danger through dreams and visions; and
- it is subject to attack and damage (Best, 1941).

Foster (2009, p. 32) argues that *wairua* is crucial to children's learning as it connects to the "unique capacity of the child to think rationally, creatively and intuitively". Key to understandings of *wairua* is the acknowledgment that *wairua* is subject to damage through illness, injury and the actions and deeds of others. The child's *wairua* must be acknowledged and protected in order for the child to develop to their full potential. Furthermore, we must be aware of maintaining spiritual balance. As previously stated, *wairua* denotes two waters. Balance or harmony must be maintained between these two waters. Pere (1991) explained that from a Māori perspective everything has a *wairua*. She gave the example of water, which gives but also takes life. The important thing to keep in mind is maintaining balance. Maintaining balance or harmony is a key feature of traditional Māori understandings and practices: balance between the sacred and the secular; life and death; sacred and profane. Actions were not viewed as good or bad, rather they were perceived in terms of harmony and balance. The Māori view of the world is one where balance is maintained across different forces.

Ensuring spiritual harmony or balance is a critical aspect of the child's holistic wellbeing and development. An imbalance or disharmony in the natural forces can impact upon the holistic wellbeing and development of the child. In order for balance to be maintained, the physical and spiritual dimensions of the child and the child's world must be acknowledged and reconciled. This, according to Mead (2003), places particular responsibilities on parents, and early childhood services, and teachers, to nurture the spiritual aspects of the child. In order for children to realise their potential and blossom into their worlds their spiritual traits must firstly be recognised, acknowledged and enhanced. Failure to do this can lead to children not reaching their potential and, worse, being spiritually damaged. Early childhood teachers must therefore ensure this does not happen. Attending to the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the child is required to create balance and harmony to the child and the child's world (Ullrich, 1994).



Spirituality and early childhood education

As mentioned previously, spirituality is an important aspect of the curriculum document, *Te Whāriki*, but lacks articulation in early childhood practice, except in services that emphasise spirituality as an important feature of the service's philosophy. Steiner and Montessori early childhood services are examples of these types of services in mainstream early childhood. Rudolf Steiner and Maria Montessori were educational theorists who believed in nurturing children's bodies and souls. Both wrote about the need to understand and support the spiritual in order for the child to reach their potential. Maria Montessori (1870-1952), an Italian medical doctor, established a preschool for children called the Casa de Bambini or children's house. This supported the development of her theories through an early childhood curriculum, a range of equipment and a training programme (May, 2013). Montessori referred to the child in terms of being a 'spiritual embryo' that could grow and develop through education (Bone 2007). Steiner (1861-1925), an Austrian philosopher, developed a programme for a spiritual reformation of life. He acknowledged the inner spiritual world within the person and the spiritual within every aspect of human endeavour (Ullrich, 1994). Although spirituality is an important feature of both Steiner and Montessori early childhood services in New Zealand, this is not the norm for the majority of early childhood services despite the strong emphasis placed on spirituality in *Te Whāriki*.

Māori ways of knowing the world and the child are inherent within the *Te Whāriki* document, stressing the need to recognise the child's spiritual attributes and the importance of these attributes to the child's holistic wellbeing. *Te Whāriki* is founded on the aspiration that children "grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind, body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society" (Ministry of Education, 1996, p. 9). It has four guiding principles to support and guide practice in order to contribute to the holistic wellbeing of the child. These principles include: *Whakamana* (empowerment), *Ngā Hononga* (relationships), *Whānau Tangata* (family and community) and *Kotahitanga* (holistic development). Considering these guiding principles, *Mana* can be translated to mean *prestige* or *power* and *whaka* to *enable* or *make happen*. *Whakamana* in the context of education relates to the process of empowering the child to learn and grow, and to develop understandings of their worlds, including the spiritual world. *Te Ngā Hononga* is about the way children learn through responsive and reciprocal relationships with people, places, and things. *Hono* can be translated as *splice*, *continual*, or *join* (Hemara, 2000). This principle emphasises the connectedness of the child to their worlds. *Whānau tangata* incorporates the wider world of the family and community. *Whānau* can be translated as *to be born* or *family group* and *tangata* as *person*. This principle stresses the concept that individuals are never alone if they continually strengthen and maintain their family and community connections (Hemara, 2000), and the importance of the child being viewed as embedded within their *whānau* and important link to the past and the future. Finally, *Kotahitanga* relates to reflecting the holistic way in which children learn and grow. *Kotahi* translates as *one* or *together with* and *kotahitanga* means *oneness*, *singleness*, and *togetherness* (Hemara, 2000). This principle recognises the importance of recognising holistic aspects in the growth and development of children. *Te Whāriki* states, "Adults should recognize the importance of spirituality in the development of the whole child", particularly for Māori and Tangata Pasefika



families” (Ministry of E 1996, p. 47). *Te Whāriki*, therefore, is not only an important document in highlighting the importance of nurturing the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the child, and creating balance and harmony in the child and the child’s world, but is also a valuable resource in supporting early childhood teachers to develop deeper understandings of the spiritual child, and world.

Another early childhood resource document is *Te Whatu Pōkeka: Kaupapa Māori Learning and Assessment Exemplars*. Launched in 2009, its primary aim was to support quality teaching and learning experiences in Māori early childhood settings, as defined by Māori. It is, however, available to all early childhood services in New Zealand, in order to support the development of bicultural understandings and practices. *Te Whatu Pōkeka* draws upon *Kaupapa Māori* theory, and traditional Māori worldviews, values and concepts in order to articulate assessment understandings and framings that express Māori ways of knowing, being and valued learnings. *Te Whatu Pōkeka* acknowledges that the child is the receptacle of all those who have gone before them, a product of their past, a living connection to ancestors, the gods and the universe. In *Te Whatu Pōkeka* the child is viewed as being born with three *ira* (essences) which are linked to *whakapapa*. The first essence is *te Ira Tangata* or the essence of or links to both sets of parents. The second is *te Ira Wairua* or the essence of and links to ancestors. The third is *Ira Atua* or the essence of and links to the gods (Ministry of Education, 2009). *Te Whatu Pōkeka* highlights the importance of recognising the child as *he kuru pounamu*, a treasured gift from the ancestors. It states:

Each child is an individual with individual personality traits inherited from their ancestor. The child is surrounded by those that have passed on and by whānau that guides them on a day-to-day basis. From these guardians, they have developed their own unique ways of being and enhancing the world...These personal traits enhance a child’s rangatiratanga or distinctive strengths. (p. 7)

Conclusion

The early childhood curriculum document *Te Whāriki* recognises the importance of spirituality to the overall wellbeing of the child. Despite this, integrating the spiritual into early childhood practice can be challenging for many early childhood teachers. According to Bone (2007), this is due to the fact that spirituality is viewed as “a challenge to Western scientific thinking and an ethos of rationality and reason” (p. 246) which provides the foundations of secular education in *Aotearoa*, New Zealand. This, however, does not mean spirituality can be overlooked or side stepped. Within early childhood education ignoring or not acknowledging spirituality is not an option. Spirituality is embedded within *Te Whāriki*, the early childhood curriculum document, so must be valued and reflected in practice if teachers are to meet their curriculum and pedagogical obligations. More importantly, if recognition is not given to the importance of the spiritual aspect of the child and the world in which they reside, teachers negate a critical dimension of the child’s wellbeing and future development.



References

- Barlow, C. (1991). *Tikanga whakaaro: Key concepts in Māori culture*. Auckland, New Zealand: Oxford University Press.
- Berryman, M., & Bishop, R. (2011). Societal and cultural perspectives through a Te Kotahitanga lens. In C.M. Rubie-Davies (Ed.), *Educational psychology: Concepts, research and challenges* (pp. 249-267). London, United Kingdom: Routledge.
- Best, E. (1941). *The Māori*. Wellington, New Zealand: Board of Māori Ethnological Research
- Bone, J. (2007). *Everyday spirituality: Supporting the spiritual experience of young children in three early childhood educational settings*. An unpublished thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
- Broughton, J. (1993) Being Māori. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 106 (9968), 506- 508.
- Cheung, M. (2008). The reductionist – holistic worldview dilemma. *MAI Review*, (3), Research Note 5.
- Butterworth, E. (n.d.). *Religion and rehabilitation: The tension between current New Zealand practice and Māori spirituality*. Retrieved from <http://www.pfnz.org.nz/Site%20PDF/Maori%20Spirituality%20and%20Of%20fender%20Rehabilitation.pdf>
- Cody, P. (2004). *Seeds of the word; Nga kakano o te kupu*. Wellington, New Zealand: Steele Roberts.
- Durie, M. (1985). A Māori perspective of health. *Social Science and Medicine*, 20, 483-486.
- Early Childhood Development. (1999) *Ahuru moowai – Parents as first teachers*. Wellington, New Zealand: Early Childhood Development.
- Foster, W. (2009). *Conceptualising wairuatanga: Rituals, relevance and realities for teachers* (Unpublished Master's thesis). University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
- Graham, J. (2009). Nā Rangi tāua, nā Tūānuku e takoto nei: Research methodology framed by whakapapa. *MAI Review*, 1, Article 3. Retrieved from <http://www.review.mai.ac.nz>
- Hemara, W. (2000). *Māori pedagogies: A view from the literature*. Wellington: New Zealand Council for Educational Research.
- Ife, J. (1995). *Community development: Creating community alternatives – vision, analysis and practice*. South Melbourne, Australia: Longman.
- Ihimaera, L. (2004). *He ara ki te ao mārama: A pathway to understanding the facilitation of taha wairua in mental health services* (Unpublished Master's thesis). Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.
- Keelan, T. (2006, April). *Case study: GYME*. Presented at NZEALS Conference, Nelson.
- Love, C. (2004). *Extensions on Te Wheke*. Wellington: Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.
- Lyotard, J.F. (1996). Postmodern condition: A report on knowledge. In L. Cahoone (Ed.), *From modernism to postmodernism: An anthology* (pp. 481-513). Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Marsden, M. (2003). *The woven universe. Selected writings of Rev. Māori Marsden*. Masterton, New Zealand: The estate of Rev. Māori Marsden.
- May, H. (2013). *The Discovery of Early Childhood*. NZCER Press. Wellington. 2nd Edition.



- Mead, H. (2003). *Tikanga Māori: Living by Māori values*. Wellington, New Zealand: Huia.
- Metge, J. (1976). *The Māoris of New Zealand*. London, United Kingdom: Routledge & K. Paul.
- Ministry of Education. (1996). *Te whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa. Early childhood curriculum*. Wellington, New Zealand: Learning Media.
- Ministry of Education. (2009). *Te Whatu Pōkeka: Kaupapa Māori assessment for learning: Early childhood exemplars*. Wellington, New Zealand: Learning Media. Available online:
<http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/ece-curriculum/assessment-for-learning/te-whatu-pokeka-english/redownloadpdf>
- Ministry of Justice. (2001). *He Hinatore ki te Ao Māori – A glimpse into the Māori world: Māori perspectives on justice*. Retrieved from http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/publications-archived/2001/he-hinatore-ki-te-ao-maori-a-glimpse-into-the-maori-world/publication/at_download/file
- Moeke-Pikering, T. (1996). *Māori identity within whanau: A review of literature*. Hamilton, New Zealand: University of Waikato. Retrieved from <http://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/464/content.pdf;jsessionid=C35DF60EF37BAB4E1FEF1D5D9ADDA14B?sequence=1>
- Patterson, J. (1992). *Exploring Māori values*. Palmerston North, New Zealand: Dunmore Press.
- Paul-Burke, K. (2011). *Kaitiakitanga, towards a sustainable future: Mātauranga Māori and baseline surveys of tāōnga species in the rohe moana of Ngāti Awa* (Unpublished Master's thesis). Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Whakatāne, New Zealand.
- Pere, R. (1991.) *Te Wheke: A celebration of infinite wisdom*. Gisborne, New Zealand: Ao Ako Global Learning.
- Reedy, T. (2003). Toku rangitiratanga na te mana-matauranga “Knowledge and power set me free...”. In J. Nuttall (Ed.), *Weaving te whariki* (pp. 51-77). Wellington: New Zealand Council for Educational Research.
- Reilly, P. (2004). Te Timatanga Mai o nga Atua – Creation narratives. In T. M. Ka'ai, J. C. Moorfield, M. P. J. Reilly & S. Mosley, *Ki Te Whaiao – An introduction to Māori culture and society* (pp. 1-12). Auckland, New Zealand: Pearson Education.
- Satterfield, T., Roberts, M., Henare, M., Finucane, M., & Henare, M. (2005). *Culture risk and the project of genetically modified organism as viewed by tangata whenua*. Whakatane, New Zealand: Faculty of Science, te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi.
- Shirres, M. (1997). *Te Tangata: the human person*. Auckland, New Zealand: Accent Publications.
- Te Rito, S. (2007). Whakapapa: A framework for understanding identity. *MAI Review*, 2, Article 2. Retrieved from <http://www.review.mai.ac.nz>
- Tse, S., Lloyd, C., Petchkovsky, L., & Manaia, W. (2005). Exploration of Australian and New Zealand indigenous people's spirituality and mental health. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 52, 181–187.



- Ullrich, H. (1994). Rudolf Steiner. A neo-romantic thinker and reformer. *Prospects: The Quarterly Review of Comparative Education*, 24(3/4), 555-572. Retrieved from [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/publications/ ThinkersPdf/steinere.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/publications/ThinkersPdf/steinere.pdf)
- Williams, J. (2004). Paptuanuku – Attitudes to land. In T. M. Ka'ai, J. C. Moorfield, M. P. J. Reilly, & S. Mosley, *Ki te whaiao – An introduction to Māori culture and society* (pp. 50-60). Auckland, New Zealand: Pearson Education.
- Wolfgramm, R., & Waetford, C. (2009, July). Spiritual efficacy and transcendental phenomenology: Accessing the contemplative from a Māori perspective. Paper presented to CMS6 – The 6th International Critical Management Studies Conference, The University of Warwick.