## Practice principles

An outline of how our practice principles relate to the Tuituia framework and our assessment practice.

### Child centred and young person focused

**We**
- Ensure that they actively participate in the process – we engage and build a relationship with them, listening and responding to their hopes, dreams and wishes
- Focus on their developmental needs and best interests, their safety, care, support, guidance, responsibility and wellbeing
- Focus on understanding what influences their behaviour – how they attach to caring adults in their lives and what impacts on their ability to grow and develop into healthy adults.

### Family led and culturally responsive

**We**
- Engage and build a relationship with the whānau including when resistance is encountered
- Encourage whānau ownership of the issues and solutions
- Engage fathers and their whānau and consider their relationship to children (especially very young children)
- Seek to understand the family culture – whether it be based on ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation
- Identify and record iwi affiliation for our Māori whānau.

### Strengths and evidence based

**We**
- Consider the child or young person within his or her own context – educational, health, emotional and behavioural factors are considered
- Explain the purpose of the assessment, the social worker’s role and responsibilities
- Explore the wider family/whānau context to establish their connectedness and relationships
- Explore the family or whānau strengths and assets and find opportunities to encourage family/whānau growth.

### Justice and accountability focused

**We**
- Seek to understand the level to which the child or young person understands the impact their behaviour has on others, including the victims of any offending
- Seek to understand the level to which the child or young person takes responsibility for their own behaviour
- Engage with the victims of an offence, seek to understand what they need to right the wrong, and work with the child or young person to identify what they can do to make amends.

### The Tuituia framework has a strong knowledge base, informed by research recognising:

- The importance of co-ordinated interagency working to address multiple needs and provide more effective interventions
- That good outcomes for children and young people are achieved through positive parenting, stable family life, strong whānau and kin networks, community and cultural connectedness, supportive social networks, and adequate resources
- The factors that increase risk to children and young people and make them more vulnerable to abuse and neglect, the onset of conduct problems, offending, and poor life outcomes.