

# Building Social Capital

This component links to:

- Parenting Support
- Growth
- Development
- Supporting Families to Access Social Needs.

Building social capital (increasing the connectedness of the family within the community) is an important task of Well Child Providers. Social cohesion is the degree to which individuals combine with and participate in a secure social environment. There is evidence that the social cohesion of the parents impacts on the child's wellbeing in the preschool years. It is suggested that this is particularly relevant for children who live in unfavourable environments due to fewer educational and financial resources.

## Age(s) of child

For parents and caregivers, family and whānau of children birth to 5 years - information and anticipatory guidance should be provided in accordance with the Well Child/Tamariki Ora National Schedule and at other times in response to identified needs.

## Purpose

To enhance the social connectedness of the family within the community.

## Personnel

All providers delivering the Well Child/Tamariki Ora National Schedule - this includes the Lead Maternity Carer (obstetrician, midwife or general practitioner), or Well Child Provider team.

## Recommended procedure

### Procedure

- Provide care in a culturally appropriate manner
- Assess family/whānau need for information and support at every contact
- Document findings and health gains identified including in the *Well Child-Tamariki Ora Health Book*
- Plan care, with family involvement and their active participation
- Facilitate access to specific support services as necessary
- Enable links to be established between families
- Use appropriate referral pathway eg, Family Start
- Participate in and lead community activities designed to build connectedness and trust.

### **Educational preparation needs to include:**

- detailed up to date knowledge of local community support agencies and groups, and preschools
- socio-ecological model
- community assessment/profile of area and access to services
- social determinants of health.

### **Resources**

On services in the area; interpersonal skills; documentation system.

### **Referral pathways**

All community support services and groups.

### **Rationale**

Increasing social capital for families directly impacts on children's wellbeing.