

# Child Health Nursing Standards Framework Aotearoa 2024







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## Contents

Foreword				
ntı	troduction 3			
Ch	Child Health Nursing Specialty Practice			
	Revision of the New Zealand Child Health  Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework			
Ch	Child Health Nursing Standards Framework			
Γh	he Child Health Nursing Standards Structure			
Descriptors				
1.	Te Tiriti o Waitangi	9		
2.	Cultural Safety	10		
3.	Communication with Whānau	11		
1.	Application of Child Healthy Specialty Nursing Knowledge	12		
5.	Assessment, Planning, Management, and Evaluation of Care	13		
3.	Ethics and Professional Care Information Management	14		
7.	Safe Environment	15		
3.	Population Health	16		
9.	Professional Communication and Advocacy for the Wellbeing of Tamariki and Whānau	17		
10.	Wellbeing of the Nurse	18		
11.	Advancement of Child Health Nursing Practice	19		
References 20				
	Appendix A: Matching Against 21 Registered Nurse Competencies			

### **Foreword**

We are proud to present the New Zealand Child Health Nursing Standards Framework, a collaboration between, NZNO College of Child and Youth Nurses - Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō and Whānau Awhina Plunket.

In 2022, the College, together with Plunket and a representative steering group, began reviewing the existing New Zealand Child Health Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework. As part of this review, it was decided to shift from a knowledge and skills framework to a standards framework as it was felt standards frameworks were broader and, therefore, better able to encompass the work that child health nurses do. In addition, NZNO member feedback indicated that nurses are more inclined to use a standards framework to guide their practice

The new Child Health Standards Framework Aotearoa has been aligned with the current Nursing Council competencies to enable users to articulate their nursing practice in relation to these standards and still meet their responsibilities under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act (2003).

Before finalising this document, time was taken to ensure there were opportunities for feedback across the child health nursing sector. Consultation was sent to nurse leaders and nurses who work in child health throughout New Zealand for an opportunity to contribute to this document.

We hope that nurses working across child health find this document helpful and that it can be used to articulate your work and acknowledge the skills and attributes required to work in this speciality area of nursing practice.

**Sarah Williams**, Chair, NZNO College of Child and Youth Nurses - Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō

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### Introduction

Nursing standards frameworks describe the expected, desired, and achievable level of performance against which a nurse's practice can be compared. Standards frameworks provide an evaluation tool for nurses, leaders, educators, or the regulatory authority, to assess clinical safety and competency.

In Aotearoa New Zealand the imperative to improve equity for Māori health outcomes means it is essential that a standards framework for nurses working in child health be underpinned by:

- The principles of Tino Rangatiratanga, Equity, Active Protection, and Partnership, as set out in the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Current understanding and cultural safety in clinical practice

For a specialty standards framework, the skills and knowledge required to care for a particular population are clearly defined. The framework promotes the best possible outcomes, improves clinical accountability, and encourages nurses to develop their knowledge and skills through experience, continuing education, and evidence-based guidelines.

The standards framework provides a framework for nurses working with tamariki from birth to 12 years of age.

For nurses working with rangatahi, please refer to the National Youth Health Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework (2014). Click HERE to view

For nurses working with neonates, please refer to the National Neonatal Nurses Knowledge and Skills Framework (2014). Click <u>HERE</u> to view

Note: At the time of writing the new framework, the Nursing Council of New Zealand Registered Nurse Competencies are under review, and are due for release in late 2024.



# **Child Health Nursing Specialty Practice**

Nurses working in child health provide universal and specialist healthcare interventions, health education, health promotion, and advocacy in a range of inpatient, outpatient, primary care, and community settings.

Nurses working in child health contribute to maintaining and improving tamariki health and wellbeing through:



### **Partnership**

Partnership with tamariki and whānau, to enable participation in healthcare to actively protect health and wellbeing outcomes for tamariki



### **Culturally Safe Practice**

Culturally safe practice that values and respects the world views, beliefs, and practices of tamariki and their whānau



### **Application of Knowledge**

Application of knowledge and skills that are acquired through academic learning

# Tamariki aged from birth to 12 years of age are a uniquely vulnerable population because:

- These are critical years for growth and development
- The foundations for lifelong health and wellbeing equity are laid in the early years
- Due to their age and developmental stage tamariki are primarily reliant on the adults around them to meet their health and wellbeing needs
- Some health conditions and disabilities are unique to childhood
- Some health and wellbeing interventions and illness treatments are specific to and most effective in childhood
- Tamariki experience health conditions and illness differently to young people and adults

Revision of the New Zealand Child Health Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework 2014 The new Child Health Nursing Standards Framework Aotearoa replaces the New Zealand Child Health Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework jointly published by the College of Child and Youth Health Nurses Aotearoa (CCYN) and Plunket in 2014.

The revision of the previous Child Health Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework 2014 set out to:

**Explicitly describe** the expected contribution of child health nurses to improving equity for tamariki Māori as their right as partners in Te Tiriti o Waitangi

**Modernise** the standards for culturally safe nursing practice

**Develop** standards for child health nursing to support consistency across settings

**Streamline and simplify** the progression pathway to be inclusive of advanced nursing practice roles

**Have a focus on** working alongside priority populations and improving their health outcomes

Improve alignment of the framework with other systems, primarily the current Nursing Council New Zealand competence assessment and Professional Development and Recognition Programmes for competent level (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2013)

**Ensure** that the framework has the right focus that would see it utilised and support nursing practice

Recognise the applicability of the framework for including educators and leaders in the provision of educational programmes and clinical preparation in child health nursing



# Child Health Nursing Standards Framework Aotearoa 2024

The new Child Health Nursing Standards Framework Aotearoa is a national document intended to be used by registered nurses working in child health and those working with tamariki that would find these standards helpful to guide their practice.



Nursing standards frameworks are typically a tool for nurses; however, the current framework is also of value to those involved in the support and development of nurses working in child health. In a survey in 2019 completed by the CCYN members indicated they wanted recognition of the document's relevance to include educators and leaders. They felt this would support the use of the framework to be utilised more widely.

For nurses working in child health the framework will guide and support:

- Clinical preparation, with the overall goal of improving nursing care and health outcomes
- Practice, through informing individual professional development plans and supporting the facilitation of career pathways
- Evidence of meeting competence and demonstrating specialty practice
- Workplace performance appraisal and the demonstration of competency and education requirements of the Professional Development Recognition Programme (PDRP)

The framework would equip educators and leaders to support nurses working in child health through providing:

- A guide for curriculum development and clinical preparation in the child health nursing specialty
- A tool to support and assess competence, cultural safety, and specialty practice in child health nursing education (undergraduate and postgraduate), workplace performance appraisal, and PDRPs



The Child Health Nursing Standards Framework Aotearoa provides:



- that are underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles of equity and cultural safety, to guide development and growth of the child health nursing workforce in Aotearoa New Zealand
- on which to build knowledge and skills in child health nurse
- for a curriculum for child health nurses that provides education and clinical preparation



- that detail specialty child health nursing practice in Aotearoa New Zealand across community, primary, and secondary healthcare roles and settings
- that outline current expectations for cultural safety and specify obligations for equitable healthcare, as set out in the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi



### **Tools**

- to guide orientation **programme development**
- to guide and inform child health nurses' professional development
- that support assessment of PDRP levels of practice
- that support tamariki and their whānau to experience care that anticipates and responds to their health needs, and contributes to their health and wellbeing outcomes

# The Child Health Nursing Standards Structure

There are 11 standards in the framework. The standards outline an expected level of practice for nurses working across all areas of child health. Each standard is described more fully through a set of descriptors.

Nurses working in child health should be able to describe their practice against each standard. The corresponding descriptors do not provide a complete or exclusive representation of the range of expected practice; they provide a guide to support an understanding of each standard across a range of practice settings and offer more depth.

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- 2 Cultural Safety
- 3 Communication with Whānau
- 4 Application of Child Health Specialty Nursing Knowledge
- 5 Assessment, Planning, Management, and Evaluation of Care
- 6 Ethics and Professional Care Information Management

- 7 Safe Environment
- 8 Population Health
- 9 Professional Communication and Advocacy for the Wellbeing of Tamariki and Whānau
- 10 Wellbeing of the Nurse
- Advancement of Child Health Nursing Practice



## Te Tiriti o Waitangi

The child health nurse understands
Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is committed
to nursing practice that improves equity
for tamariki Māori and their whānau

### **Descriptors**

- 1.1 Understands and describes the relationship between the principles in the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, health inequity, and health outcomes for tamariki Māori
- 1.2 Describes the **effect of colonisation on health inequity** for tamariki Māori and their whānau
- 1.3 Describes the determinants of health that influence outcomes for tamariki Māori and integrates this knowledge into practice
- 1.4 Engages in **self-reflection** on their own nursing practice in relation to reducing health inequities for Māori tamariki and whānau
- 1.5 Accesses learning, evidence, and guidance to grow knowledge of tikanga Māori
- 1.6 Demonstrates respect and consideration to maintain the mana of tamariki and whānau
- 1.7 Integrates Māori models of health into nursing care; for example, Te Whare Tapa Whā and Meihana Model

- 1.8 **Partners with whānau** and their tamariki, recognising manaakitanga in the relationship to support reciprocity in accessing their knowledge of their health and wellbeing
- 1.9 Understands the concept of whakawhānaungatanga and the ongoing whānaungatanga needed for continued interactions with whānau and tamariki
- 1.10 Has a basic understanding of te reo Māori and uses it to enhance correct pronunciation of greetings, names of tamariki, parents and care givers, whānau, places, and agencies
- 1.11 **Prioritises access to early intervention** and care to those at risk of inequitable health outcomes



## **Cultural Safety**

The child health nurse demonstrates practice that respects and responds to the culture of tamariki and their whānau

### **Descriptors**

- 2.1 Describes the relationship between culture and child health outcomes
- 2.2 Identifies systemic and organisational examples of institutional racism; describes their effect on achieving equity of health outcomes and the role of the child health nurse in addressing racism and discrimination
- 2.3 Acknowledges and **responds to diverse needs** in whānau, including those based on ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, parenting/life choices, political or other opinions
- 2.4 Understands the impact of inequities in child health outcomes for Māori, Pacific, and tamariki with complex needs. Uses this knowledge to promote change and champion improvement in quality and access to care
- 2.5 Provides nursing care that is respectful of cultural beliefs, culturally safe and responsive, and promotes health literacy within the whānau culture

- 2.6 Is **conscious of the unequal power** between themselves and whānau, and intentionally works to reduce the subsequent effects
- 2.7 Reflects on, identifies, and addresses characteristics of their own culture that may influence their nursing practice



# Communication with Whānau

The child health nurse engages in effective therapeutic relationships with whānau. This considers age, stage and developmental needs, and meets legislative requirements

### **Descriptors**

- 3.1 Demonstrates effective and purposeful **listening** and communication (verbal and non-verbal) that is tamariki and whānau centric
- 3.2 Establishes effective relationships, **recognising whakawhānaungatanga** as the beginning of the therapeutic relationship
- 3.3 Establishes, maintains, and concludes therapeutic relationships with tamariki and whānau that demonstrates empathy, respect, trust, and is inclusive of those present
- 3.4 Practices with humility to understand and learn from whānau and their tamariki to foster development of trust through the sharing of reciprocal knowledge and experience
- 3.5 Communicates effectively to support development of strong, healthy, empowered whānau, enabling participation in their care and decision making



# Application of Child Health Specialty Nursing Knowledge

The child health nurse applies and extends their specialty child health nursing knowledge and skills

### **Descriptors** -

- 4.1 Uses **strength-based approaches** to develop and maintain a partnership with whānau
- 4.2 Develops a **trusting relationship** with the consent of whānau and of tamariki, that is undertaken in a mana enhancing, respectful way
- 4.3 Has the **knowledge to support whānau** to recognise the needs tamariki in relation to health, wellness, growth, and development
- 4.4 Understands and applies the **importance** of the first 2,000 days as foundational for lifelong health and wellbeing to practice
- 4.5 Recognises the vulnerability of tamariki due to their developmental stage and dependence on adults in the provision of nursing care
- 4.6 **Provides anticipatory guidance** on developmental changes and child health knowledge to enhance the growth and developmental wellbeing of tamariki and to support whānau in their healthcare
- 4.7 Reduces the incidence of developmental delay and injury, **ensuring best possible outcomes** for tamariki and whānau

- 4.8 Adopts a **trauma informed approach** one that recognises the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), family violence, trauma, and stress on tamariki and whānau
- 4.9 Recognises and works with whānau to **reduce** the impact of trauma on short- and long-term health outcomes
- 4.10 Considers and seeks to mitigate the possible impacts on tamariki living in the presence of parental mental illness and addiction
- 4.11 Uses evidence-based knowledge and skills to deliver optimal nursing care to tamariki and whānau. This includes the ability to undertake holistic nursing assessments using cultural models of health appropriate for the whānau
- 4.12 Recognises the importance of mental wellbeing for tamariki and whānau, and provides support, guidance, and intervention as required
- 4.13 Recognises the impact of acute and chronic illness, disability, and hospitalisation of tamariki on whānau
- 4.14 Utilises sustainable and agile models of nursing care that adapt to the changing environment and needs



# Assessment, Planning, Management, and Evaluation of Care

In partnership with tamariki and whānau, the child health nurse holistically assesses, plans, manages, and evaluates age-appropriate care

### **Descriptors** -

- 5.1 Provides comprehensive and focused nursing assessment to assess health and wellbeing, this includes determining health literacy, and the current situation for whānau including the impact of the social determinants of health
- 5.2 Analyses risk and strengths of whānau and reduces these risks and builds strengths through care planning
- 5.3 Provides nursing cares and other clinical tasks according to policy and legislative requirements, consulting with members of the team where necessary
- 5.4 Has a developmental perspective, using age-appropriate engagement and communication, assessment, and interventions within each tamariki and whānau cultural context
- 5.5 Plans care based on cultural models of health, evidence informed child health practice, knowledge, clinical experience, and comprehensive assessment skills

- 5.6 Uses clinical judgement, critical thinking, and evidence to analyse and interpret the assessment when making decisions
- 5.7 Plans child health nursing care in partnership with whānau based on the assessment of need and focusing on identified priorities
- 5.8 Shares appropriate evidence-based information within the health literacy of tamariki and their whānau
- 5.9 **Reflects on nursing care during healthcare delivery**, and regularly reviews and evaluates goals in partnership with tamariki and whānau
- 5.10 Provides appropriate referral for identified health needs of tamariki and whānau and completes timely evaluation of referral outcomes
- 5.11 Concludes the interaction with a clear understanding by tamariki and whānau of the plan of care going forward



# Ethics and Professional Care Information Management

The child health nurse understands and complies with legislation, ethical and moral frameworks, policy, and best practice guidelines, to provide safe child healthcare

### **Descriptors** -

- 6.1 Complies with national and organisational policies, procedures, legislation, frameworks, and guidelines, regarding safe child health nursing care provision and documentation requirements
- 6.2 Recognises and understands New Zealand's obligations as a signatory of the 1989 United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) and practices in accordance with these rights
- 6.3 Meets Nursing Council of New Zealand registered nurse Standards of Competence, Code of Conduct in the context of Child Health Nursing, and the Charter on the Rights of Tamariki Children and Rangatahi Young People in Healthcare Services in Aotearoa New Zealand
- 6.4 Understands and respects the legal rights of tamariki and whānau in relation to consent, maintaining confidentiality, and decision making
- 6.5 **Ensures informed consent and maintains confidentiality** of health information and boundaries of engagement

- 6.6 Demonstrates appropriate and effective use of information, documentation, and data/patient management systems; and is professional, respectful, and responsible when using electronic forms of communication, including social media
- 6.7 Meets professional responsibilities and uses clinical knowledge to identify signs of child maltreatment, child abuse, or neglect; and acts appropriately to safeguard tamariki including whānau in the process where possible
- 6.8 **Accesses guidance**, particularly when making decisions about tamariki and whānau safety
- 6.9 **Meets mandatory reporting** and requirements related to abuse, neglect, and intimate partner violence, in accordance with applicable legislation



### Safe Environment

The child health nurse promotes and maintains a safe and welcoming environment for tamariki, whānau, and colleagues

### **Descriptors** -

- 7.1 Understands and complies with government and organisational health and safety policy and guidelines
- 7.2 **Conducts holistic risk assessments** to determine safety for tamariki and whānau
- 7.3 Supports whānau to provide developmentally appropriate experiences for their tamariki in safe and secure environments to achieve optimal health outcomes
- 7.4 Recognises that conflict may occur for whānau in child health nursing, such as having differing points of view, and is able to navigate this situation
- 7.5 **Maintains an awareness of risk of communicable disease** in Aotearoa
  New Zealand
- 7.6 Utilises knowledge of the signs and symptoms of common childhood communicable diseases to provide anticipatory guidance and health education to whānau for prevention and early identification of disease

- 7.7 **Is proactive in advocating** for immunisation, infection control, and preparation for pandemic
- 7.8 **Keeps current** with the national immunisation schedule and promotes immunisation
- 7.9 Is aware of the impact of pandemics, natural disasters, and major emergencies on whānau and communities. Has emergency plans and can be flexible in providing ongoing nursing care



## **Population Health**

The child health nurse demonstrates knowledge of child health determinants and population health for the population they work with

### **Descriptors**

- 8.1 Develops practice based on knowledge and understanding of population health and the social determinants of health, including poverty. Assesses how these impact tamariki and whānau within the populations they are working with
- 8.2 Provides nursing practice that supports the differing ways in which whānau experience health, illness, disability, the environment and healthcare from a health promotion model
- 8.3 Is aware of climate change and the impact on tamariki, whānau, and communities, particularly those vulnerable to the poorest health outcomes. Works towards reducing the impact of climate change for the population the nurse is working with
- 8.4 **Identifies and responds where appropriate** to social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental factors that affect child health nursing and services

- 8.5 Engages and builds relationships in the community to enhance and support community capacity
- 8.6 Works collaboratively with key community leaders and groups to support community action and develop positive health outcomes for tamariki, whānau, and communities



## Professional Communication and Advocacy for the Wellbeing of Tamariki and Whānau

The child health nurse communicates effectively with colleagues, agencies, and community groups, advocating for and supporting the wellbeing of tamariki and whānau

### **Descriptors** -

- 9.1 Effectively and professionally communicates and collaborates with other health professionals and organisations, across a range of sectors, to ensure appropriate resources and access to services for tamariki and whānau to support continuity of care
- 9.2 Upholds professional, positive, respectful, and supportive collegial relationships to ensure open lines of communication
- 9.3 Advocates for integrated care and support for whānau in a partnership approach throughout their journey with services
- 9.4 Advocates to achieve improved health outcomes for tamariki, whānau, and population groups through community action, submission writing, and policy development
- 9.5 **Networks to identify community resources** and services available for tamariki and whānau and helps to facilitate access to these where indicated

- 9.6 **Recognises when there is complexity** that heightens tamariki and whānau vulnerability and works to reduce the impact
- 9.7 **Is aware of the power difference** between health practitioners and health consumers, and appropriately uses power to advocate for and support whānau



# Wellbeing of the Nurse

The child health nurse is aware of the context/impact of the health and social system on their personal wellbeing and takes appropriate steps to minimise these for themselves and for colleagues

### **Descriptors**

- 10.1 Assesses personal safety and acts appropriately when risk of immediate harm is present with actions such as de-escalation and moving to a place of safety
- 10.2 Demonstrates reflective practice that supports professional growth and expansion of practice
- 10.3 Where possible, identifies own needs in relation to wellbeing and proactively seeks support when needed
- 10.4 Addresses ethical concerns and constructively advocates for their own team and profession when the impact of the health and social system on personal wellbeing is negative
- 10.5 **Articulates increased risk** to appropriate leaders and reports incidents



# **Advancement of Child Health Nursing Practice**

The child health nurse will advance practice through research, quality improvement, leadership, and evidence-based practice

### **Descriptors**

- 11.1 Actively engages in professional education and development to advance child health knowledge and practice
- 11.2 **Implements models of nursing care** in practice that adjusts to changing environments and needs
- 11.3 **Identifies opportunities** and incorporates knowledge of current evidence-based research into child health nurse practice
- 11.4 Advocates for the specialty of child health through networking, professional contribution, and community visibility
- 11.5 Engages in reflective practice to increase self-awareness and improve child health nursing practice through completion of a professional nursing portfolio to meet the requirements of the Nursing Council of New Zealand
- 11.6 **Mentors/coaches/supports** new nurses into child health nursing

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# Appendix A

Alignment with the Nursing Council of New Zealand Registered Nurse Competencies (2007).

Standard	Registered Nurse Competency
Te Tiriti o Waitangi     The child health nurse understands Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is committed to nursing practice that improves equity for tamariki Māori and their whānau	1.2 Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi to nursing practice
2. Cultural Safety The child health nurse demonstrates practice that respects and responds to the culture of tamariki and their whānau	1.5 Practises nursing in a manner that the health consumer determines as being culturally safe     3.2 Practises nursing in a negotiated partnership with the health consumer where and when     possible
3. Communication with Whānau The child health nurse engages in effective therapeutic relationships with whānau. This considers age, stage, and developmental needs, and meets legislative requirements	3.2 Practises nursing in a negotiated partnership with the health consumer where and when possible 3.3 Communicates effectively with health consumers and members of the healthcare team
4. Application of Child Health Specialty Nursing Knowledge The child health nurse applies and extends their specialty child health nursing knowledge and skills	2.1 Provides planned nursing care to achieve identified outcomes 2.2 Undertakes a comprehensive and accurate nursing assessment of health consumers in a variety of settings 2.4 Ensures the health consumer has adequate explanation of the effects, consequences and alternatives of proposed treatment options 2.6 Evaluates health consumer's progress toward expected outcomes in partnership with health consumers 2.7 Provides health education appropriate to the needs of the health consumer within a nursing framework
5. Assessment, Planning, Management, and Evaluation of Care In partnership with tamariki and whānau, the child health nurse holistically assesses, plans, manages, and evaluates age-appropriate care	2.1 Provides planned nursing care to achieve identified outcomes 2.2 Undertakes a comprehensive and accurate nursing assessment of health consumers in a variety of settings 2.4 Ensures the health consumer has adequate explanation of the effects, consequences and alternatives of proposed treatment options 2.6 Evaluates health consumer's progress toward expected outcomes in partnership with health consumers 2.8 Reflects upon, and evaluates with peers and experienced nurses, the effectiveness of nursing care
6. Ethics and Professional Care Information Management The child health nurse understands and complies with legislation, ethical and moral frameworks, policy, and best practice guidelines, to provide safe child healthcare	1.1 Accepts responsibility for ensuring that their nursing practice and conduct meet the standards of the professional, ethical, and relevant legislated requirements     1.3 Demonstrates accountability for directing, monitoring and evaluating nursing care that is provided by enrolled nurses and others     2.3 Ensures documentation is accurate and maintains confidentiality of information     3.1 Establishes, maintains and concludes therapeutic interpersonal relationships with health consumers
7. Safe Environment The child health nurse promotes and maintains a safe and welcoming environment for tamariki, whānau, and colleagues	1.4 Promotes an environment that enables health consumer safety, independence, quality of life, and health     2.5 Acts appropriately to protect oneself and others when faced with unexpected health consumer responses, confrontation, personal threat or other crisis situations
8. Population Health The child health nurse demonstrates knowledge of child health determinants and population health for the population they work with	2.2 Undertakes a comprehensive and accurate nursing assessment of health consumers in a variety of settings     2.6 Evaluates health consumer's progress toward expected outcomes in partnership with health consumers     2.7 Provides health education appropriate to the needs of the health consumer within a nursing framework
9. Professional Communication and Advocacy for the Wellbeing of tamariki and whānau The child health nurse communicates effectively with colleagues, agencies, and community groups, advocating for and supporting the wellbeing of tamariki and whānau	4.1 Collaborates and participates with colleagues and members of the healthcare team to facilitate and coordinate care 4.2 Recognises and values the roles and skills of all members of the healthcare team in the delivery of care 3.3 Communicates effectively with health consumers and members of the healthcare team
10. Wellbeing of the nurse The child health nurse is aware of the context/impact of the health and social system on their personal wellbeing and takes appropriate steps to minimise these for themselves and for colleagues	1.4 Promotes an environment that enables health consumer safety, independence, quality of life, and health     1.5 Practises nursing in a manner that the health consumer determines as being culturally safe     2.8 Reflects upon, and evaluates with peers and experienced nurses, the effectiveness of nursing care     2.9 Maintains professional development
11. Advancement of child health nursing practice The child health nurse will advance practice through research, quality improvement, leadership, and evidence-based practice	Reflects upon, and evaluates with peers and experienced nurses, the effectiveness of nursing care     Maintains professional development     A.3 Participates in quality improvement activities to monitor and improve standards of nursing