



My First Te Reo Māori Words: A Journey with Aroha

Atareta Wirihana

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KA AKO, KA TIPU, KA PUAWAI



Young Aroha steps out onto her sunlit porch in Aotearoa New Zealand with a joyful smile, ready to begin a new adventure. She waves warmly to everyone she meets, calling out a bright 'Kia ora!' to start the beautiful day.



Aroha gathers with her loving whānau under the warm sunshine, pointing proudly to her māmā, pāpā, and giggling pēpi. Together, they share gentle hugs and happy laughter, celebrating the special bond of family.



At the bustling community garden, Aroha introduces all the wonderful people around her. She points out a playing tama, a sweet kōtiro, and a wise kaumātua tending to the green plants with care.



Aroha plays an energetic game of body parts with her friends, giggling as she touches her ihu and points to her waha. She wiggles her waewae and reaches high to touch her upoko with joy.



Dipping her brush into bright paint jars, Aroha splashes brilliant whero, radiant kōwhai, and calm kākāriki across a large paper banner. The rainbow of beautiful tae fills her heart with artistic excitement.



Sitting on a woven mat on the wooden deck, Aroha counts her smooth ocean shells one by one. Her finger moves happily from tahi to tekau as she counts all ten shiny treasures.



A friendly kurī trots over to sit beside Aroha, wagging its tail while a colorful manu sings a cheerful melody high in the branches. Aroha giggles and practices making all her favorite animal sounds.



During a sunny afternoon picnic, Aroha shares fresh āporo slices, golden kūmara, and cool wai with her loved ones. She knows that eating good kai keeps her tinana healthy, strong, and full of energy.



Walking along a peaceful bush path, Aroha marvels at the tall rākau and soft green rau dancing in the gentle breeze. She leans close to smell a bright putiputi while gazing up at the blue rangi.



As the golden sun sets, Aroha sits beside her family, softly whispering the new Māori words she learned today. She smiles deeply, knowing that every word spoken helps the vibrant language flourish for generations to come.