

Animal Teeth

FOR TAMARIKI

Tamariki discover that animals' teeth come in different shapes and sizes.

Kōrero What to do

Use magazines to find pictures of animals' teeth. Whānau may like to donate some magazines to your setting.

Help tamariki cut out pictures of different animals' teeth. Create a collage or book with the pictures. Encourage tamariki to arrange the animals' teeth into different shapes and sizes. For example,

- Lions, cats and dogs have big corner teeth called canines for tearing meat
- Rabbits have big front teeth called incisors for biting vegetables
- Horses and cows have large flat back teeth called molars for chewing and grinding grass
- Sharks have many rows of teeth
- Birds have beaks instead of teeth to crack grains and shells

Use the key messages to talk about how animals also need to keep their teeth healthy and strong

Key resources

- ['Tooth by Tooth'- Comparing Fangs, Tusks, and Chompers'](#) by Sara Levine
- Magazines

Key messages

- 🦷 Baby teeth matter- they help me smile, chew and talk
- 🦷 Brush teeth twice a day- morning and night - with fluoride toothpaste
- 🦷 Brush teeth together with whānau
- 🦷 Spit don't rinse after brushing
- 🦷 Choose water and plain milk to drink
- 🦷 Choose healthy kai
- 🦷 Have a dental check-up each year