

Te Pēpi Hou

The New Baby



by André Ngāpō

illustrated by Adele Jackson

*Ready
to Read*

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Te Pēpi Hou demonstrates the tuakana-teina relationship. The tuakana (older brother, sister, or cousin) helps a younger teina (younger sibling or cousin of the same gender).

Kāhu (Kah-who) a boy's name in Māori

puku (puh-coo, like cuckoo but starting with a p) tummy

pēpi (peh-pee) baby

tino pai (tee-naw pie) very good

anei tō teina (ah-nay tau tay-nah) Here is your younger brother.

(If you are a boy, your younger brothers are teina. If you are a girl, your younger sisters are teina.)

moko (maw-kaw) grandchild, short for mokopuna

Āio (Eye-awe) calm, at peace

For more support with pronunciation, go to www.readytoread.tki.org.nz
to hear an audio version of the text.

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Dad was getting ready to take Mum to the hospital.
Nan and Aunty Ruby had come to look after Kāhu.

Aunty said, “Soon you’ll have a new brother or sister
to play with. You must be excited, Kāhu.”

Kāhu didn’t feel excited. What would it be like with
a new baby in the house? Would it cry all the time?
Would he have to share his toys? Would he have to
share Mum and Dad?



“Give me a hug before I go, Kāhu,” said Mum.

Kāhu tried to hug Mum, but her puku got in the way.
And then her puku moved.

“Oh!” said Mum. “The pēpi just did a big kick.”

Aunty Ruby and Nan felt Mum’s puku.

“Pretty cool,” said Aunty.

But Kāhu didn’t think it was cool. He liked it better before,
when Mum and Dad said that *he* was their pēpi.



The next morning, Nan said, “Mum had a baby boy last night! A little brother for you, Kāhu. Mum and the new pēpi will stay at the hospital for a few days.”

Kāhu sighed. He liked having Nan and Aunty to stay, but he missed Mum.

A few days later, Dad said, “I’m picking up Mum and the new baby after work today, Kāhu. Mum can’t wait to see you.”

It felt like a long day for Kāhu. At last, Aunty got a phone call. “They’ll be here soon,” she cried.

“Tino pai!” said Nan. They both started to tidy the house, even though it was already really tidy!

Dad’s car came up the drive, and Kāhu rushed to open the front door. They came inside, and Mum lifted the new pēpi out of his car seat. She cradled him in her arms. Everyone hugged. There were lots of happy tears.

“Anei tō teina. Here is your little brother,” Dad said, and he lifted Kāhu up to see the new baby.

“He looks tiny,” thought Kāhu.

“Welcome home, my moko,” said Nan, pecking the pēpi on his cheeks, like a bird.

“Have you named him yet?” asked Aunty.

“Not yet,” said Dad. “But we like the name Āio because he is very peaceful.”



But after a few days, Kāhu didn't think his teina was peaceful at all. He cried a lot. He cried during the day and in the middle of the night. Kāhu spent lots of time in his room, by himself. He got sick of playing with his cars and trucks.



One morning, Mum was giving Āio a bath. Kāhu was watching her when the pēpi looked up at him.

“I think he just smiled at you,” said Mum. Kāhu smiled back at his little brother. “You know, Kāhu,” said Mum, “you were a little pēpi like this once.” She put Āio into his towel and dried his little body. “And even though you are now a tuakana, you will always be my pēpi.”

Mum reached out to Kāhu and cuddled him and Āio at the same time. Kāhu loved how sweet and fresh Āio smelled. He felt very happy. “Mum,” he said, “can you please teach me how to hold Āio?”

“I sure can,” said Mum.



That night, Aunty Ruby and Nan came to dinner. Kāhu showed them how he could hold Āio. He was careful with the neck, holding his little brother up against his body. He rocked Āio and smiled at him. Āio giggled and cooed.

“Tino pai, Kāhu,” said Aunty. “You look like a natural, all right. You look like the proudest tuakana ever.”

And he was.



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