

Instructions for Playing Ti Rakau

1. Children should be arranged in pairs, in rows, or 2 circles (inner and outer circles).
2. Sit on your knees and place your sticks in an upside down "V" shape in front of you.
3. Choose one child to be the leader. She/he calls out, "*Timata.*" (Timata means "begin," in Maori.)
4. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
5. Tap the end of your right stick to your partner's right stick. (1 beat)
6. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
7. Tap alternatively the right and left ends of your own sticks four times. (4 beats)
8. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
9. Tap the end of your left stick to the end of your partner's left stick. (1 beat)
10. Tap alternatively the right and left ends of your own sticks four times. (4 beats)
11. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
12. Tap the end of your right stick to your partner's right stick. (1 beat)
13. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
14. Tap the end of your left stick to the end of your partner's left stick. (1 beat)
15. Tap alternatively the right and left ends of your own sticks four times. (4 beats)
16. Repeat steps 4-15 until the children are confident and remember the motions.
17. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
18. Gently throw the stick in your right hand to your partner's right hand. (You will be throwing the stick diagonally, not straight across). (1 beat)
19. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air. (2 beats)
20. Gently throw the stick in your left hand to your partner's left hand. (1 beat)
21. Tap alternatively the right and left of your own sticks four times. (4 beats)

22. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air.
(2 beats)
23. Gently throw the stick in your right hand to your partner's right hand.
(1 beat)
24. Tap the floor with your sticks, and then tap your sticks together in the air.
(2 beats)
25. Gently throw the stick in your left hand to your partner's left hand.
(1 beat)
26. Tap alternatively the right and left of your own sticks four times.
(4 beats)
27. Tap the ends of your sticks on the floor, and place the sticks back on the ground in an upside down "V."
(2 beats)

**This is just one version of Ti Rakau. Feel free to add or remove any of the steps above to suit the needs of the children playing the game. The traditional lyrics to the game are found below, but you could play the game to the beat of any song you choose.*

Kei te Ako au

Kei to ako au
I nga mahi e
Kei te ako au
I nga tikanga

Chorus: (The chorus is noted in purple up above.)

Katahi porowhiua
Ka rua hurihuri
Ti rakau titi torea