Dr Tafili Utumapu-McBride
Salā Dr Fa’asaulala Tagoilelagi-Leota
Dr Jacoba Matapo
UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Indigenising infant and toddler pedagogy through Pepe Meamea: A Samoan pedagogical framework for Samoan children under two in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This presentation reports on a two-year TLRI study of Pepe Meamea (Samoan conceptualisations of infant/toddler) grounded upon Samoan epistemologies, values and beliefs of the Samoan child as a collective, holistic and relational being. The Samoan worldview of children and childhood prioritises the whole child, which has implications when positioned alongside dominant notions of infant and toddler development discourse and ECE philosophy. The semiotics of the Samoan language references a collective position for personhood rather than an individual one which warrants further examination into the Samoan conceptualisations of Pepe Meamea. As an innovative philosophy of practice, Pepe Meamea already has deep Samoan cultural knowledges associated with its term. This presentation explores the possibilities of Pepe Meamea through the development of a pedagogical and relational framework that promotes its implementation in the Aotearoa New Zealand ECE environment.