Hei Tama Tu Tama

Equipment
None

Area required
Any area where the group can be spaced evenly in pairs

Grouping
Children in pairs.

Instructions: Positions
- Hands on hips. A
- Both forearms raised, fists clenched, and elbows to the side. B
- Raise right forearm with clenched fist, left hand on hip. C
- Raise left forearm with clenched fist, right hand on hip. D

Rules
- The defender begins the game by calling "Hei tama tu tama" and places their hands in one of the four positions described above.
- The challenger replies with "Hei tama tu tama" and does a different action.
- When one player catches the other doing the same action, that player calls "Hei tama tu tama rā!" and scores a point.
- The winner of the point then re-starts the set, saying "Tahi. Hei tama tu tama" and play continues until a player is caught out again.
- Each time a player scores a point, they re-start the set by saying the number of points they now have followed by "Hei tama tu tama."
- The game continues until one player reaches ten points – this completes the set.

Suggested approach
- Hei Tama Tu Tama, like many early games, was designed to encourage mental dexterity. Even though the winning was important, it was the way in which competitors won that was the focus.
- The cheeky cajoling, the smile and grimace to put your opponent off were all part of the game.
- The pedagogy is ako, in which games are always supportive. This game is played using the upper body, arms, and hands, ensuring a balanced position.