

A Tale about a Tail!



It was Pyjama day today, a day of cozy, relaxed fun. I was dressed in my coral red fox onesie, complete with ears, a nose and a very long tail that velcroed on. Arthur looked up at my outfit as soon as he arrived and asked, "Can I wear your's Melissa?" I explained to Arthur that I had no other pyjamas to wear and that I would be very cold if I took it off. We

also talked about how big my Pjs were and Arthur decided that they would be too big. Arthur spotted my tail next and within moments he had worked out that it was removable. "Can you stick it on me?" he asked. "Hmmm, it attaches with velcro Arthur, do you have any velcro that we could stick it to?" I replied.

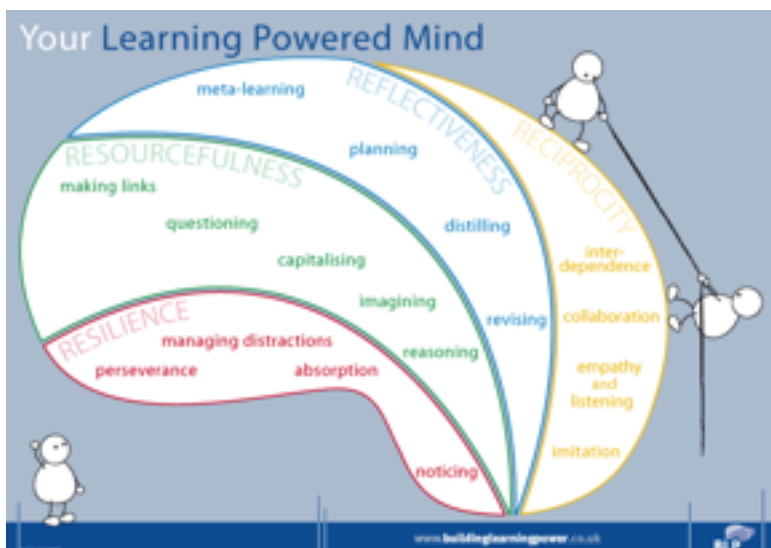


"No", came Arthur's sad reply. "That's a shame, I

wonder what else we could try?" I pondered. Arthur was quiet by my side and as I continued to hang out the washing he moved off, tail in hand. Five minutes later he was back with a solution. Arthur had found a worker's fluoro vest that attaches up the front with velcro! I was flabbergasted! "Here is some velcro", he told me with a smile. I couldn't hide my utter amazement and awe at the depth of Arthur's creative problem-solving. "What a very thoughtful thinker you are Arthur! You thought very carefully and solved the problem! Come on, let's get this vest on and attach the tail for you", I told him. We decided that the vest would have to go on backwards, so that the velcro would be in the right place for a tail to



attach, however, when we tried to stick it on we discovered that the velcro was so old that it had lost all its little hooks. Arthur looked sad once again. “Oh, no! Do you know what, I have an idea about how to fix this problem Arthur”, I shared. “Come with me, my friend”. Together we went into the kitchen and opened the draw to the desk. There we found some velcro dots that have very sticky backs. We used these to attach the tail and to keep the vest done up. It worked perfectly! Arthur now had a place to attach his tail, allowing him to run off, tail-a-swinging behind him.



What learning can we notice for Arthur?

Guy Claxton tells about our Learning Powered Mind, with ‘resourcefulness’ being one of the most fundamental resources a learner can have. Resourcefulness is about ‘making links, questioning, capitalising, imagining, and reasoning’.

These are exactly the habits of mind that Arthur used today as he solved the problem. He didn’t just accept the limitations at hand, he *made logical links* to other resources available, *imagined* them as solutions, *questioned* their overall appropriateness and based his decision on sound *reasoning*. He then *capitalised* on an opportunity, putting his plan into action.

This my friends, is a ‘Learning Powered Mind’ in action. The complexity of Arthur’s thinking is, without question, awe inspiring. There is no better example of *resourcefulness* than this story!

Opportunities and Possibilities to extend Arthur’s learning...

Arthur is now one of our tuakana at the centre and is becoming more and more ‘leaderful’ in this role. How wonderful it will be to support this leadership by inviting him to share his expert problem solving disposition with his friends. Stay tuned whānau!

Arohanui, Melissa

