



As always pleasantly surprised.

Roman today we went to a new park and it did not take long until you were confidently climbing up and down the ladder to sail down the slide, run back around and start again. When we first arrived though you tentatively climbed the ladder. Unsure of yourself you took your time with measured steps, focusing on each rung.

It was not long before the ladder held no challenge for you as you ran to the top to again sail down the slide. My surprise Roman, was you reminding me that you love to push the boundaries of learning. Having mastered the ladder you decided the next step would be to climb up the slide in order for a hasty descent.

This move was obviously too easy for you so you moved onto another challenge that stretched your balance and coordination. What if you walked half way up the slide then climbed from one side of the slide to the other to finish your ascent? This was interesting to watch as you had to concentrate on the balance needed to hold yourself steady on this slippery slide while you were straddled over the dividing wall. Again you repeated this manoeuvre over and over practicing and perfecting. This certainly was a tricky way of climbing the slide. For this move you needed to fully concentrate each time you tried because it took careful balance, coordination and use of many of your senses and muscles.

What learning do I think was happening here.

Roman watching you I was reminded that you are intrinsically motivated to want to be on the edge of your learning, mastering new feats and then setting new goals to stretch your abilities. This is how resilience and self determination is built Roman. Your creative thinking about the use of the slide certainly allowed for you to negotiate risks. Risky play can be defined as a thrilling and exciting activity that involves a risk of physical injury, and play that provides opportunities for challenge, testing limits, exploring new ideas and learning about making your own decisions. I have often thought that play equipment in parks does not offer enough risk and challenge but today you proved me wrong Roman because you took a fixed piece of equipment and found new and challenging ways to use it through your own desire to stretch yourself.

Nurturing this learning

Roman I remember when you were just learning to master stairs and you were trusted then to make your own choices and find your own unique way of manoeuvring your way down the stairs. This built on your sense of mana motuhake/self determination. Supporting you to experiment with new ideas will continue grow your resilience and fortitude to face new challenges. I am confident that allowing you to play with your ideas about risk and challenge will ensure that you will grow a good understanding of just how far you can push your own risk boundaries.

Sometimes your attempts may fail but it is through trying and perfecting that you build resilience. So again I would say to support your learning and sense of mana motuhake I will ensure that you are given the time, space and an environment that is open for you to interpret with your own ideas and we will see what happens.

I can see this self determination and can do attitude so evident in who you are Roman and look forward to other ways that you will surprise me.