



## Parent Voice - Mr Tahi

3<sup>rd</sup> Here-turi-kōkā/August 2017

Nā Kate (Bonnie-Mae's Mum)

This morning Nova and Bonnie-Mae learnt from Nanny and Poppa that our first lamb had arrived, a little boy who we have named Mr Tahi. Before we left to Barnardos we went outside to congratulate the mother sheep and say hi to her little boy. Bonnie and Nova wanted to go in the paddock but I explained Mr Tahi's mama would be nervous about us coming to close. Bonnie-Mae could see the umbilical cord still hanging from Mr Tahi's puku and asked me what would happen to it. I explained it would fall off eventually. We watched Mr Tahi try and find his mummy's teat in the wrong place (on her chest). Nova climbed to the top of the fence to get the best view. I told the girls I would watch him closely today to see when he starts feeding.

When we got home from kindy, we all went back to say hello to Mr Tahi, he was feeding from the right place now and wagging his tail. Both Nova and Bonnie were pleased to see this. They then decided to sit down and watch all the pregnant mamas until Bonnie explained "another lambie pops out". They requested mandarins and sandwiches to eat while they waited. While they waited for a lambie to pop out, Ruby our dog waited patiently for a crust or mandarin piece to be dropped! Welcome Mr Tahi! Both girls are very happy you are here!





### Whānau Voices:

Dale (Nana): Awww.....

Sharon (Kaiako): Such a beautiful story. It really captures the children's awe and wonder of the natural world. It's a privilege and a pleasure to read these parent voice learning stories because they provide a genuine insight into the children's home lives. The children are so blessed to have a loving whanau and I look forward to supporting this interest at Barnardos. Thanks so much for sharing, Kate.



David (Dad): Sweet! I love the efficient combination of eating and watching. Well done Mum!

Jenny (Kaiako): Thanks for this story Kate. We talked about lamb number two this morning. There sure is something magical about watching new born animals as they find their footing. Bonnie-Mae tells me she will bring Mr Tahi in to visit when he is four, like her!





## Planning a Van Trip

19<sup>th</sup> Here-turi-kōkā/August 2017

Nā Kelly

Kia ora whānau. Thanks for the beautiful story about the birth of your new lamb, Mr Tahi. This has supported me to engage in plenty of meaningful and sustained conversations with Bonnie-Mae.

Over a series of days, Bonnie-Mae drew a portrait of all her sheep and lambs; and as she described each one to me.....she had an idea. She decided that she wanted to show me her sheep and we could do this through planning a van trip to her house, using our Barnardos Van.

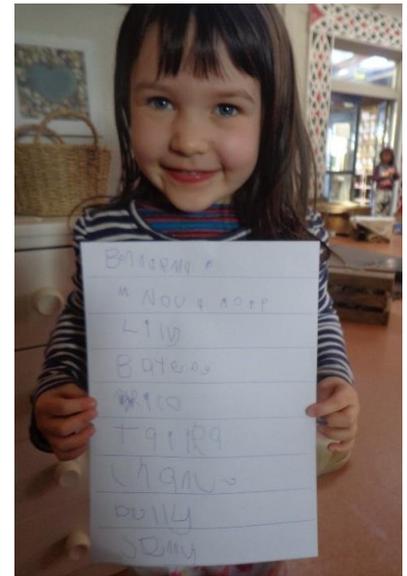
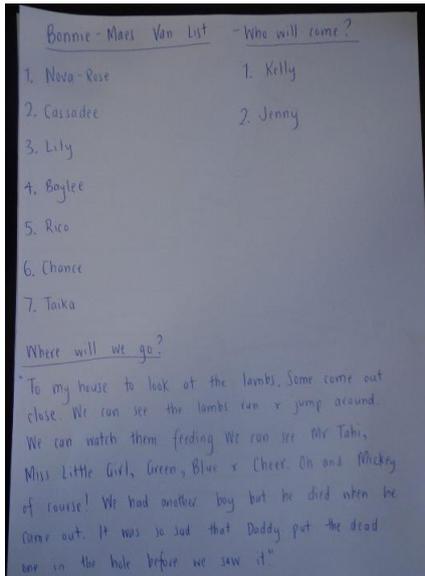


Bonnie-Mae worked out how many car seats we had and knew that was the number of children she could invite. She thought wisely about who would be on her list and why, she chose two teachers to come along, and then told me that I needed to check with the children's families. Bonnie-Mae is very aware of how our centre operates and she knows that we need signed





permission from parents to take their children on van trips. I reassured Bonnie-Mae that I would get this done, but we had to ask her whānau if the visit would be okay first. Bonnie-Mae felt quite confident that Mum would be supportive of her idea and continued planning by drawing a map of how to get to her house, a list of morning tea (that Mum would make for us) and all the things she wanted us to do at her house.



Bonnie-Mae, it was a couple of days before I saw your Mum and when I spoke to her about your trip, she already knew all about it. You had fully informed her and as you expected, your Mum was very supportive!

Over the next couple of weeks, we began counting down the days to the van trip!

To continue to support your interest, I have been bringing my pet lamb to Barnardos every day. Bonnie-Mae, you have taken on a leadership role by caring for the lamb and sharing your prior knowledge of lambs.



The day before the trip, Bonnie-Mae made sure that Jenny and I were ready and prepared. She ensured that we knew to bring our gumboots and to write it on our hands so we didn't forget. She also asked us to let all the parents know that their children needed pants, gumboots and jackets (demonstrating her thoughtfulness and a sense of responsibility).





On the day of your trip, your Mum brought you to Barnardos since you were keen to travel in the van. According to your plans, you needed to sit in the front with your map to show the driver how to get to your house. And you did precisely that....you navigated us directly to your house. Mum and your sister (Nova- Rose) were waiting outside to greet us.

The children were so excited about going to your house and as we arrived we met your dog, and we saw loads of sheep in your yard. You gave us a tour while we waited for Lily and her Mum Sharee, to arrive. Then we all went out to the paddocks together to see the lambs and their mothers. We fed the sheep some bread, observed the lambs feeding from their mothers, and had lots of interesting conversations.



The children were comfortable to enter the paddock for a closer look. Your Mum provided a delicious morning tea for everyone and the children explored your home environment.



Thank you so much for inviting us Bonnie-Mae and to your whānau for their manaakitanga. We had a wonderful time and I'm sure the children will be talking about this trip for weeks ahead.





Kia ora whanau. This trip was so valuable as it enabled opportunities for Bonnie-Mae to think, plan, organise and problem-solve. It has been an incredibly empowering experience for her to direct her own learning and to take on a leadership role within our centre programme. We would love to hear your thoughts?

#### Whānau Voices:

David (Dad): Brilliant story - I felt I was there! Well done Bonnie Mae for organising so well and what a beautiful Hawke's Bay day too.

Dale (Nana): Today was able to look at the story again on my tablet (rather than smaller views on my phone) I loved your picture of all the lambs. Bon your beautiful dress and your writing which was amazing. I was lucky to see all these things. It made me happy. Xx

Kate (Mum): Wow Bonnie! Daddy and I am so proud of your organisational skills to arrange this trip. We also love the fact you wanted to share the experience with our Barnardos family!! What a wonderful day it was and you waited so patiently for all the lambs to be born in order to have the visit. Ka pai taku kotiro ataahua, you make us proud. xxx

Jenny (Teacher): Thank you for having us over. This trip was planned with precision and love. I must admit I was a little chuffed to see my name on the list, in Bonnie-Mae's handwriting. I felt so welcomed in your whare. I loved seeing the sheer delight on the children's faces as they were exploring their surroundings and watching the animals. I'm so grateful that you all made this opportunity possible for us. Arohanui. X





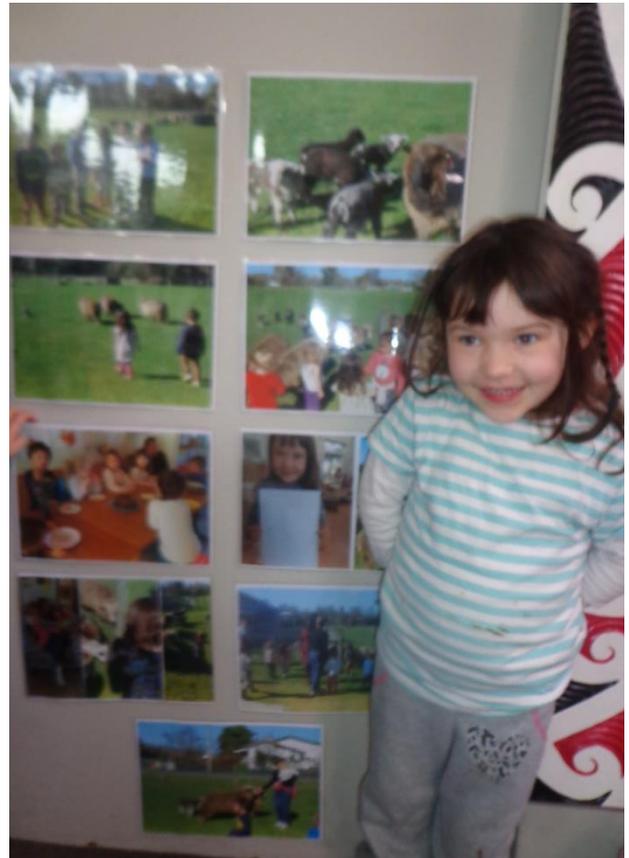
## Bonnie-Mae's Voice

Captured by Kelly on the 25<sup>th</sup> Here-turi-kōkā/ August 2017

This morning I watched as Bonnie-Mae proudly shared photos of our recent van trip with her Mum (Kate) and sister (Nova-Rose).

Bonnie-Mae's helpful, caring and thoughtful nature was demonstrated as she assisted in displaying the photographs on the wall for everyone to see, and happily revisited and shared the experience with her friends and teachers.

Later in the morning, I noticed Bonnie-Mae deep in thought, looking at the photographs on the wall. I approached her and crouched down beside her in silence. Bonnie-Mae turned to me, gave a beautiful smile and stated four powerful words;



### **"I love being me"**

These words warmed my heart and soul. This was such a special and reflective moment which captured her strong sense of identity, belonging, empowerment and the awareness of the unlimited potential she holds.

This highlights how Bonnie-Mae is "a competent and confident learner and communicator, healthy in mind, body and spirit, secure in her sense of belonging and in the knowledge that she makes a valued contribution to society" - which underpins the vision of our early childhood curriculum, Te Whāriki.

