

-BEING BRAVE-

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By Jenny



Jaymee shows courage and identifies this to me as 'being brave'.

While up at the playground this afternoon I heard you Jaymee call out to me saying, "I'm being brave". I got quite excited hearing these words as I thought what a wonderful way to describe yourself as a learner. So without hesitation I turned around interested to see what being brave looked like for you?

After turning around I saw you ready to walk down the plank of wood, your arms stretched out wide and ever so cautiously and slowly you eased your feet one foot in front of the other! I continued standing watching you and made comment to what a super learning power 'being brave' is. Soon enough you made it all the way down to the end and you gave me a huge smile.

As I watched you cautiously walking down the plank of wood, arms stretched out wide - I wondered if you were perhaps a little unsure about balancing and I gave thought to this uncertainty being a reason why you thought you were being brave. I further decided to ask you, "What does being brave mean?". To which you replied, "I don't know!". I too questioned myself as to what being brave meant and I suggested to you whether it was about trying something even though you might be a little bit unsure whether or not you could do it? "Yeah that's it", you replied nodding your head in agreement.

What learning do I think is noticeable here today for Jaymee?

What a reflective learner Jaymee continues to be and this is clear to see as I look back on her portfolio - which documents stories capturing Jaymee's many qualities of being a good learner. I was excited to hear Jaymee saying she was being brave today as we have come to recognise this as the language of learning. And through using this language she was making visible how she recognises that she is showing courage as a learner - an important learning disposition to foster. Even though Jaymee found it a little tricky to explain what being brave means, it was clear to see through her body language that she was perhaps a little unsure about balancing along this piece of wood, but yet still gave it a go. Trying, being brave, taking courage are wonderful learning dispositions that will support life long learning and how great it was to see Jaymee building resilience today!

"Good learners do not grow by being protected from difficulty, but by engaging with it, and thereby developing their skill".

Guy Claxton, 2002