

Exploring the Kura





Kia ora Theo, last Friday the kaiako in rūma Teina decided there was time for a quick hīkoi before your lunch. The day was warm and sunny so on with our gumboots and off we went. We walked out of the Teina playground and you were happy to be my buddy, holding my hand and being the back leaders! As Jo Jo was having her lunch in Pōtiki we thought we would pay her a visit and let her know what was happening. You took the opportunity to explore the outside area, I wonder was this your first excursion to Pōtiki? There were squeals of delight as you played 'peek a boo' with your friends and kaiako behind the plastic dome.



Next we walked through the kura playground and around to their māra. With it being the end of winter there was not a lot of vegetables to see, smell, touch or taste but the orange marigolds caught your eye Theo. Luckily Jo Jo had joined us and she explained the importance of planting marigolds to keep white butterflies busy so they do not eat the vegetables.

Then we walked over to the pump track. There were large puddles and the clay was very slippery in places. This did not deter you Theo. You were confident and curious to explore the track. You took every opportunity to takahia in the puddles with your friends Isla and Mila, demonstrating your growing confidence in and control of your body.



As we walked back to Teina you stopped to look and listen to the loud singing coming from the school hall. Your body began to kanikani and when I got closer I could hear the tamariki singing "The lion sleeps tonight"! No wonder your body could not contain itself, this waiata is so well known to you Theo and a firm favourite in rūma Teina. Sadly I did not get any footage of your kanikani, but here is a photo of you and Isla peering in, itching to be part of the action.



What learning is happening—E aha te matauranga te kei ako?

In your learning story "Out and about in our community" Jojo mentioned in her future possibilities to provide opportunities for you to explore your immediate local environment, including the school grounds. Being able to freely explore the natural environment in your own time and in your own active way Theo nourished your wairua, well being and sense of belonging. Becoming aware of and visiting your community nurtures your sense of identity. Nature based experiences beyond the gate support you to understand that this is **your** place, growing your understanding of why it is important to care for and protect our environment and making connecting links with the wider world (Te Whāriki, 1996). The teaching and learning in this experience was underpinned by **whanaungatanga**. Sharing this experience with your friends in a small group strengthened your relationships as you played together relishing the pure joy of puddle jumping and kanikani. Mum mentioned that you have no fear of exploring new places and this is exactly what I observed. Curiosity and confidence are two very important learning dispositions (habits of mind) Theo. These dispositions will enable you to reach your potential on your life long learning journey.

Opportunities and Possibilities— Nga hua pea- nga taumata?

Kaiako can support you to develop a connection with and knowledge of the physical and spiritual features significant to the local community through hīko and waiata. Kaiako, tamariki and whānau can work together with local iwi to understand the whakapapa of our place, Matangi Āwhio.

Learning tags:

Belonging - Mana Whenua

Confidence and body control

Connecting/linking their worlds

Enviroschools

Exploration-mana Aotūroa

Well-being-Mana Atua

Whanaungatanga

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