

TITIRO! KO AU!

LOOK! IT'S ME!

April 2013 Nā Sue



A couple of weeks ago you got your profile book for the first time Atlas. Inside there was a story written just for you, about your first weeks here at Matangi Āwhio. There were lots of photos of you doing some of the things you love, that you were able to 'read' yourself. You looked so pleased as you took your book over to show Aunty Mandy, and snuggled in on her lap so she could read to you all the kupu that were all about you.

It was only a short time later that your Mum arrived and you rushed to the door holding up your profile book so that your Mum could see it. You were very excited to show her and gave her your book even before you greeted and reconnected with her with your usual hugs and kisses.

The next time you came to kindergarten Atlas, you came right to the door by yourself, saying goodbye to your Mum while you were still in pakeke! Your Mum was a bit surprised I think, and explained to you that she needed to come into teina with you. Once through the teina door Atlas, you came right outside and started your play, happily saying goodbye to your Mum as she left. Your Mum told me that you liked showing your book at home, and that other members of your whānau get to see your special book when they visit.

I wonder if having your book now, with photos of you happy and engaged at kindergarten, has helped you to feel an increased sense of belonging here?



He kapiti hono, he tatai hono

That which is joined together becomes an unbroken line

This whakatauki reminds me of the 'unbroken line' we are creating through our relationship, that connects Atlas's place at home and his place at kindergarten. Each of our contributions to Atlas's profile are one part of creating this unbroken line.

WHAT LEARNING DO I SEE HAPPENING FOR ATLAS?

Ngā hononga ki te tauparapara: Ways of knowing

As Atlas is the youngest in his whānau, I imagine that he has seen and been around his siblings profile books, so brings with him knowledge about these special books. Now Atlas has his own that he can share with others as he chooses. His profile book contains images he can read himself, and kupu that adults around him can read to him. Atlas's profile book allows him to share his experiences with others before he has the language to be able to talk about them. Atlas can clearly see himself and his place at kindergarten, and is able to revisit his experiences over and over.



Ngā āhuatanga o te tamaiti: Ways of being

Atlas sees images of himself happy and engaged, and hears of how he has overcome some struggles, which strengthens his image of himself—his identity—as a competent and capable learner. Atlas is finding ways of being within the world, figuring out who he is, in the different places he spends time. Through the relationships he is developing here, and through the documentation in his profile book, Atlas sees that he as a person is valued and respected, and that his knowledge is similarly valued and respected. In these ways Atlas's profile book becomes one way to whakamana Atlas.

Tikanga whakaaro: Ways of doing

The kaupapa of teina and the whole of Matangi Āwhio is about whakawhanaungatanga—the creating of relationships, which we recognise as vital to children's learning and development. Atlas's profile book is what might be called a 'boundary object' - something that makes connections across the boundaries between places. Atlas's profile book connects different worlds for Atlas—kindergarten and home, (and beyond??), and creates space for conversations about learning between Atlas, his whānau, me ngā kaiako (and perhaps others too).

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS?

Atlas's profile book is readily available for him to revisit when it is here at kindergarten, just as it is when it is at home.

We will use Atlas's book to retell his stories with him, stories from kindergarten, and stories from home.

Nadia, and Isaac, and whānau

We would love to hear your stories of Atlas with his profile book at home. Is there a special moment you are happy to share with us (and with Atlas too to revisit).

Kia ora, Sue.