

Samoaan lullabies



Fili was responsible for putting Lauren to bed. As the rest of the children were just finishing their lunch at the Over two area, the start of the Samoaan lullaby's tune from Fili's incredible singing started to echo throughout the building. This has brought memories of when my children were young back in Samoa. My mum always sang a mixture of lullabies and traditional songs to put them to sleep. When Fili started to sing an old, traditional song I went over to the moe area where I saw Fili lying beside Lauren as she continued singing. At this time Lauren was still awake but was just lying there, very relaxed and slowly dozing off.

What did I learn about Lauren?

At two years old Lauren is familiar with the A'oga rhythms like moe time, but when she's out and about she is eager to explore, investigate and build social relationships when learning opportunities arise. She has the courage to encounter any difficulties that come her way. Lauren is confident when she models Fili's singing at home and demonstrated this to her Nana, saying "moe, moe". Nana Siolo shared with us that she then pats her doll and hums the tune. Lauren we know that sometimes you do not want to come for a moe, however when we say to you that Fili is waiting for you inside, you immediately leave what you are doing and walk inside.

Singing at moe time is very much part of our culture and ritual in every Samoaan household in Samoa and now we are implementing this as part of sharing our culture with the rest of the other children. Who knows maybe one day all the other children from different backgrounds who have experienced Fili's singing during moe time will carry on this Samoaan tradition with their own children and grandchildren.

Analysis of this Learning

Lauren's family is rich in the Samoaan culture and traditions. Settling her for "Moe" is something that she's familiar with from home. Nanna Siolo shared that when Lauren comes to her place on the weekends, she loves singing and they noticed her high pitch voice when she tried to sing the tunes of the songs (Pese) that Fili sing at "Moe Time".

From Loretta