



May 2018

Dear Emery,

What a wonderful encounter I had with you, when I visited your childcare centre, Shining Starz! You are truly a shining star! Thank you for the lovely gift of *korero*, of talking with me at the playdough table. What a privilege to spend some time with you! Thank you. I found out so many interesting things about you, I got to know a little bit of who you are, and I must say, Emery, what an interesting person you are!

You are so articulate and knowledgeable! We talked about many, many things: your name, your friends' names, letters in your name, numbers, spelling... You spotted different letters in the writing on the walls and you told me the clock on the wall was a circle. I also found out about your family, your siblings, parents and grandparents, your best friends at the childcare centre, and your flight to Wellington. Everything was tiny when you looked down from up there, from the airplane. Then, you explained what brand of car each person in your family had.

Next you drew a flower, with petals and polen in the middle (yes, you told me all of these words!), a bee with a long sticky tongue at the end – and you explained how bees eat polen, with their sticky tongues! By this time, I was so impressed with your knowledge, vocabulary and drawing skills, but more importantly with your communication skills and the ability to engage in and sustain a conversation, that I thought I might forget to record everything for this letter. But that was not all! Next came the drawing of a cyclop: one eye, a smiley face and a rainbow next to it. To top it all off, Mandy has told me that you learn to speak Hebrew. Wow! Emery, I am excited about everything that you are! I know that you are happy, you have friends and you are the best that you can be. I congratulate your parents and your teachers for encouraging you to be a learner and a thinker. Tino pai, Emery!  
Arohanui. Lots of love and hugs, Mihaela

P.S. I should have taken a photo of your beautiful drawing, but I was too absorbed in the conversation. Thank you.

## **Emery's whanau comments**

### *Mum on May 24*

Wow....thank you...that is so beautiful!! I am going to read it tomorrow to Emery. A very happy proud mummy :) :) :) And he has flourished so much thanks to the love and care he gets from his very special teachers at Shining Starz!

### *Grandpa on May 24*

WOW!!! Great pleasure reading this letter. We follow Emery's progress from a distance and while skyping with him and the family we notice how he is growing so well. I am sure that you and Shining Starz have a lot in helping Emery's progress. Saba Moish.

### *Mandy (teacher) on May 24*

We know you are with us, Saba. Every time we post something for Emery, we know that you and Safta will see him. We feel blessed to have you with us in this way. Thank you always for staying tuned. Xx

### *Other grandpa on May 24*

Well done Emery! And as Michaela says congratulations are due to his parents as well as you Mandy and all your colleagues at Shining Starz. Thank you. Grandpa J

### *Mandy on May 25*

And the most wonderful thing is knowing the support that Emery gets from all his whanau, always watching, always interested in what he is up to and always there, letting him know he has places to belong, people that love him all over the world. Such a very lucky boy. Thank you, Jeremy, we love what we do at Shining Starz and we are fortunate to have fabulous children to spend our time with.