

# A Love of the Natural World



Olivia discovering rain water in a small knot hole in the wooden step..... look, find, touch and taste!



Olivia you are drawn to, and have a passion for the natural world that surrounds us. You nearly burst with excitement when you see me approaching with a pair of overalls, you grin, wave your arms and sometimes squeal in delight! Once we are ready to explore the great outdoors you crawl at great speed to race me and others to the door. You react as if you haven't been outdoors for days, yet for the majority of your time at Kindergarten you choose to play outside. It is your enthusiasm that continues to warm my heart and reaffirms the learning and development that occurs for you when you make all of your 'discoveries' of the natural world.

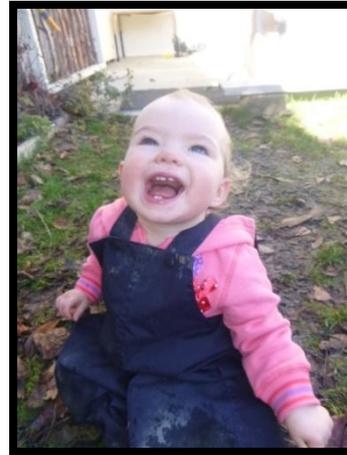


"the door is open Eila...come on...."



Olivia you have an amazing eye for detail! On your way to discover, explore and play you notice the smallest things such as tiny insects, specks of stone, leaves and markings on grass, wood and concrete and spend time closely inspecting and making sense of your discoveries. You love experiencing a variety of textures and developing your sensory motor skills along the textured stone and concrete path, in the sandpit, amongst the grasses, bark and in the garden.

Olivia you have a naturally curious nature, when you make your discoveries you take time to make sense of them, to inspect closely by touching, holding, turning, squashing and sometimes even tasting.



### ***What learning is happening for Olivia...***

#### Ngā hononga ki te tauparapara: Ways of knowing

I know that you all enjoy and experience the outdoors as a family. Olivia has had opportunities to go up mountains, has visited forests in front and back packs and also goes on regular walks in the buggy. Olivia brings with her a familiarity with nature and is obviously comfortable in the outdoor settings. Olivia is extending on what she has already seen on these trips, now exploring more closely through her sensory development and physical skills. Even though Olivia is yet to use words to describe enquiry, research and working theories about the natural world around her she communicates easily with her body, facial expressions and interest.

#### Ngā āhuatanga o te tamaiti: Ways of being

Olivia has a strong connection to taiao, and is exploring the outdoor environment as soon as the door is opened in the mornings. Through her expressions of delight and discovery she draws other tamariki to her play to share experiences and opportunities. Olivia's love of taiao is an integral and important aspect of her mana (identity) and is allowing her to participate in many natural experiences in her early years. Olivia's wairua (spirit) and her mana leads me to believe that in the future as she grows older she will be a kaitiaki (guardian) of taiao.

#### Tikanga whakaaro: Ways of doing

Our kaupapa at Auckland Point Kindergarten is strong in whakawhanaungatanga (building of relationships) which is vital to the development and learning of tamariki.

It is through whanaungatanga (relationships) with people, places and things that Olivia is able to bring her experiences together in a meaningful way. By reading Olivia's cues and I am able to support her learning about these discoveries by sharing her enthusiasm and my knowledge together as we learn and appreciate taiao (the natural world) around us. Olivia's interactions with the natural environment are absolutely beautiful to watch. I can already see Olivia passing on her love of taiao to others as she continues on her wonderful learning journey.

*Te whatu pōkeka states : "the ways in which adults interact and behave around children impact on the ways in which children will learn. If the adults display a love of learning and a curiosity about the world, so too will the children" (Ministry of Education, 1996 pg55)*

14th July 2014  
JoJo

Nicola & Adam, do you have any stories you would like to share about Olivia and her love of taiao?

