

Mrs Tittlemouse

Violet was using the small white board to draw on when I came into the reading area, we began a discussion about what she was drawing. As children often do, Violet started to tell a story and she talked about the snail she was drawing. As I had only just met Violet I asked her name and she said



it is Mitsy and then corrected herself and said, "No it is Mrs Tittlemouse." We decided to tell a story about the snail and I started with "Once upon a time there was a snail, who was very hungry and ate through a leaf." This prompted Violet to get a book to support the story we were telling. Before long the story progressed and Violet changed the story to one about Mrs Tittlemouse and the dirty footprints. I asked Violet who made the footprints and she told me it was the bug (I became the bug) and we both acted out this story as Violet narrated.

What learning did I see happening for Violet?



As we know storytelling is a cultural universal, everyone everywhere tells stories and it is a way for children to begin to understand their world. Storytelling today was also a way for Violet and I to meet each other and join in a role play. Violet was able to take on the leadership role while I was the supporter of her ideas. Kei Tua o te Pae identifies a repertoire of literacy practices and one of these is critiquing and redesigning and this is what I saw Violet doing today. Clearly Mrs Tittlemouse is a known story to Violet and she was confident in changing the story to suit her purpose.

Violet, I really liked the way you told the story when you acted it out your voice changed and you became Mrs Tittlemouse. You had to do a lot of cleaning, and I wondered why the bug did not have to do the cleaning. You said that it was you that had to clean it up as the bug had gone by the time you saw the dirty house. Maybe next time you will be able to catch that bug in the act and get her to help you clean!



How could this interest in Storytelling be supported further?

Well Violet, as I do not come into Playcentre every day it is hard for me to help you plan for what you might like to do next with this interest. I do know that storytelling and acting out is an interest for a number of children and they are beginning to tell their stories to an adult and then they have the opportunity to act this story out at the end of the day. I wonder if this is something you have already done and would like to do more of? You are a good story teller and

actor so it would be great if you could take this interest further. I look forward to hearing your stories again sometime Violet.

Ka Kite

Jo Colbert, Educational Leadership Project. 16 February 2011