

KATAKATA - LAUGHTER

April 2013 Nā Sue



"She's done lots of laughing today." That's what I say to your Mum or Dad lots when they come to pick you up Willow. And that's what you often do—laugh a lot!

Other tamariki really enjoy your company and want to spend time with you. I think your positive outlook on life is very appealing for them. You frequently look like you are having lots of fun, and they want to be part of that with you.

There are lots of different things that start your laughing Willow. You really like to play with your friends hiding under the art easel—or maybe you or one of your friends does something you all think is funny in the sandpit—and you will laugh for ages!

The other day you and your friends Jamie and Welfare were having fun whilst at the kai table. Your joyful interaction was special because it didn't involve adults and I actually have no idea what was so funny, but each of you seemed to know exactly what was going on and were fully involved in the merriment.

The episode captured in these photographs (and on the video clip on the accompanying CD), started with you, Jamie and Welfare getting wet by the splashes you were all making as you played in and around the kumete wai. The laughter continued...

Your laughter is infectious Willow, we all feel good when you laugh.

It certainly looks like you feel good when you laugh too Willow.

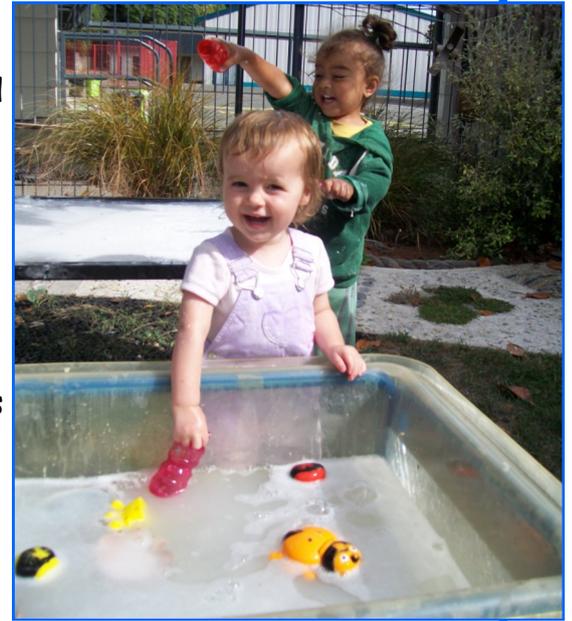
Kumete wai—water trough

*Waiho i te toipoto, kawa i te toira
Let us keep close together not wide apart
(Friendships should be kept alive)*

WHAT LEARNING MIGHT BE HAPPENING FOR WILLOW THROUGH LAUGHTER AND JOY?

Ngā hononga ki te tauparapara: Ways of knowing

Willow brings with her the ability to find the humour and joy in all sorts of situations. She understands that laughter and joy are important to relationships. The friendships she is making are giving her opportunities to learn about communication, social interactions, and care for others. Playing alongside others allows Willow an insight into how others are exploring the world, giving her ideas she can then try herself. Importantly Willow is also learning about emotions. Feeling the pleasure and happiness that comes from positive and happy interactions with another, is part of vital learning about understanding and managing our emotions (and becoming 'emotionally literate').



Ngā āhuatanga o te tamaiti: Ways of being

Recent research into brain science tells us that laughter releases 'feel good' hormones.

A 'happy' brain has all its learning potential primed to make the most of any learning opportunities that are available to the individual (adult or child!).

Willow approaches her learning with what we would call a 'playful' disposition.

Dispositions are a bit like our default setting as regards being ready, willing and able for learning. Playfulness is not the only disposition we recognise in Willow (Grannie's learning story for Willow in her profile highlights others, for example, perseverance, confidence and responsibility), but it is highlighted in this story.

Tikanga whakaaro: Ways of doing

Kaiako recognise the importance of providing a safe and healthy environment for all of us to promote wellbeing and emotional health. Enjoyment is a part of establishing such an environment. Kaiako also recognise the importance of tamariki experiencing the pleasure of a playful partner, and encourage companionship between tamariki, and between tamariki and kaiako.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

We will give Willow time and space to continue to develop her friendships and the mutual enjoyment that goes along with them. We will provide the language for Willow to use to describe her feelings, and those of others.

Laurie, Eddie and whānau,
What makes Willow laugh at home?