

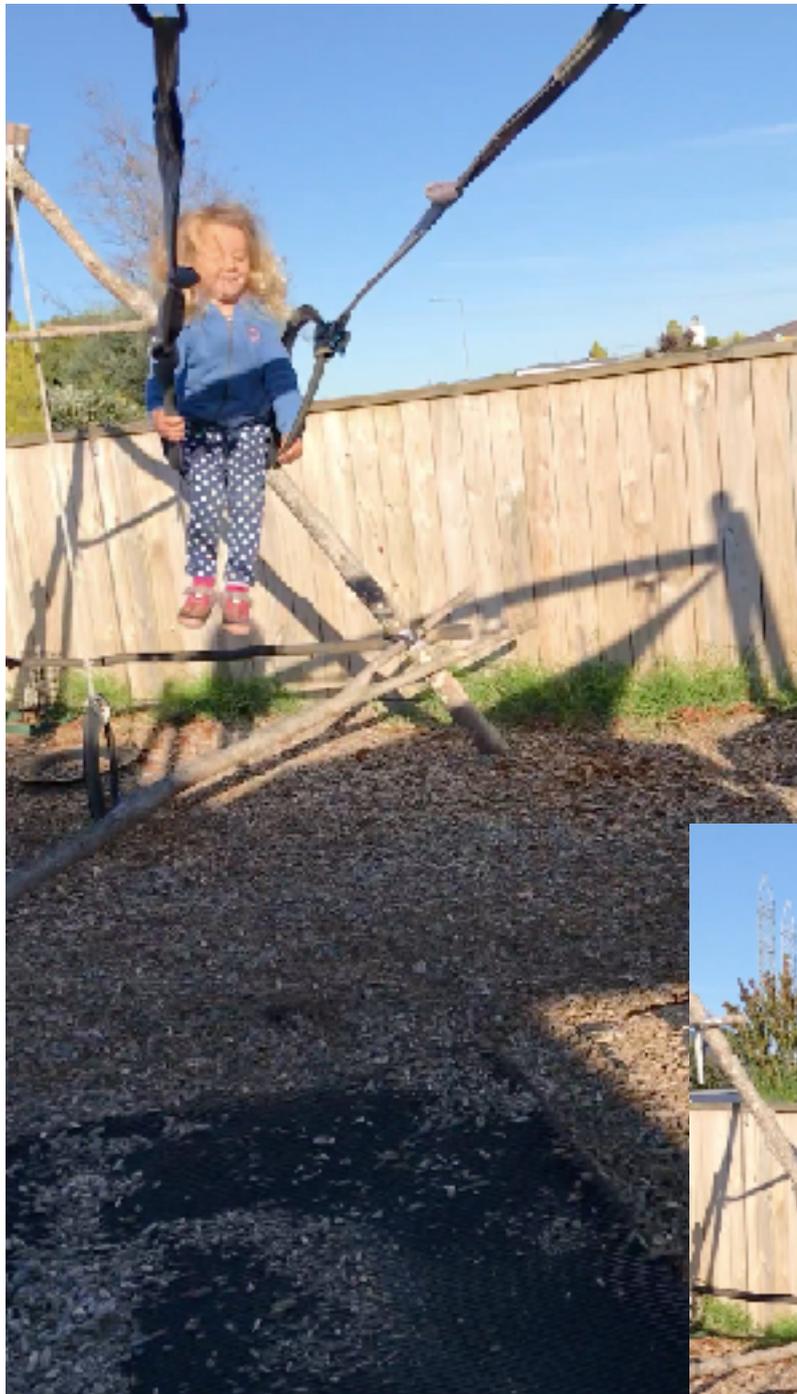
Ain't No Mountain High Enough



Seeing Eva after so many weeks in lockdown was just wonderful. She has grown taller, gaining a 'big girl' stance which, no doubt meant, some leaps in her learning had occurred. As we made our way to the swings, together with Evie, her mate, Eva hopped on the tyre swing. I was readying to give her a push when...whoosh! She was gone.

By gone, I mean she had pushed herself so high, I had to step out of the way not to get knocked down. Wow! Eva swung sitting down, standing up, she swung on the tyre swing as well as on the round, net swing.

In my attempt to make sense of this **huge leap in her learning**, many questions circled my mind: when did Eva learn to swing? How did it happen? How long did she practise for? Was there someone who taught her how to do it? But then I remembered all those learning experiences we have documented in the past that speak of Eva as someone who knows how to take on a challenge with elan and bravery. To achieve something of this size, you must be prepared to fail first, struggle, try different strategies (in case some don't work) and practice, practice, practice. So, robust habits of mind are necessary to carry you through such an assiduous process which I believe Eva HAS in bucketfuls. They are however, boosted by an insatiable thirst for learning we have seen since she was a wee baby. There is nothing Eva can't achieve if she puts her mind to it. In lockdown she has learnt to do tricks on her BMX bike and engineered a magnetic shapes tree house every architect would



envy. These moments are all testimony of Eva's learning identity and outlook on the world. No wonder her mum, Melissa, calls Eva Miss Independent! Because every time Eva puts her mind to something, she will work and work and work to achieve her goal. What a fabulous way to be!

How can we stretch this learning further?

I entitled this story 'Ain't no mountain high enough' because, in all honesty I haven't found something that would put Eva out of her comfort zone. Perhaps the forest farm adventures will create some edgy opportunities. But for now, I feel Eva can stretch her learning by teaching

her friend, Evie, how to swing. While they were in that space together, I could see how intently Evie was watching Eva, attempting to copy her swinging actions. Learning from a dear friend is the most powerful way our children expand their repertoires of dispositions, skills and knowledge and I know this will benefit both friends, in different ways. Watch this space....

Cu afectiune/Arohanui, Cat
May 2020

