

## A connection to place

A learning story for Bodhi, written by Michelle, June 2020

Bodhi during Rahui (lockdown) one of the things I learnt about you and your family is that you love an adventure and you have such a connection to this beautiful place in which we live. How do I know this? The photos that you shared within our community were of you sitting inside massive driftwood huts in Opoutere, zooming towards the estuary as you learn to balance your bike, and a surprise visit to my street to spot the teddy bear sitting in my window with my sunhat on.

Today you and I were chatting with Joseph as you had your morning tea and you said **"you know Michelle I went down to beach access 14 again and your fairy house is still there". "Have you been to see it Joe?"** you asked Joe. When Joe told you that he hadn't you told him that you would tell him how to get there. **"You have to walk very far! There is a little bridge, because you have to have a bridge because of the river, and then you have to turn the corner again".**

You decided to put your lunchbox away and turned to Joe **"I am going to make a fairy house Joe, will you help me?"**. You found some driftwood in the studio and decided you would take it to the carpentry table. What you discovered Bodhi was the driftwood was soft and as you hammered it broke. I have written learning stories before on your expertise with the glue gun Bodhi, so I suggested that we set the glue guns up in the studio. Deciding to make the walls of the house out of sticks you persisted for some time with the glue, gluing first to attach and then again to reinforce. **"My sister Nina has some unicorn dust, I am going to ask her if I can have some to put in to bring the fairies"** you told me. You also found the smallest pillow from a jewellery box, holding it up to your cheek to feel for softness. **"The fairies will like this too!"**

**What does this tell me about you as a learner Bodhi?** Bodhi I know that the time you spent in Rahui with your family was special to you, and that you had rituals like having lunch together, and listening to audio books as a family that you all miss. As a Kindergarten community place-based (whenua-based) learning is valued. Your willingness to be kaitiaki of the special Pohutakawa tree and fairy house at beach access 14 has contributed to keeping our community connected even when we couldn't be together. This term I have noticed your emerging interest in maps, roads and distance between landmarks in our community. Your wonder and awe around fairies is linked to your working theories around magic that are emerging in your play. **How could we make this learning flourish?** I wonder if you will place yours in this tree when it is finished Bodhi for others to visit? I am sure the fairies will find your house a peaceful place to rest.

