

KELLY'S RESPECTFUL KORERO

Respectful, compassionate, Taha Hinengaro

By Harriet - August 2017

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.

Simone Weil • Artist: Peter Taylor Quidley



On this day, Kelly.....

I was in Pipi just for a short time but while I was there I heard you having to most fabulous korero with one our your tamariki. In Pipi we practice a primary-caregiving system where all of the kaiako build a relationship with a group of tamariki and take part in all of their care moments when possible. Whenever I am in the room it is clear that the tamariki value these special relationships and I can see the trust and partnerships that have been formed.

Inspired by the work of Emmi Pikler and Magda Gerber one of the key aspects of primary caregiving is respect. It was your

respectful practice that shone bright as you had a conversation with Boston. He became upset as your attention was with another tamaiti. You remained calm and empathised with Boston, labelling his feelings and sportscasting what you were noticing was happening for him. It was a wonderful moment and showed the understanding, relationship and partnership that you have with Boston.

It was Magda Gerber who first introduced the concept of educaring and Emmi Pikler who went further to suggest that babies are competent individuals and should be treated

with respect. This viewpoint has now been proven over and over again and Te Whariki reminds us that in order for a tamariki to thrive and learn they need to establish an intimate, responsive and trusting relationship with at least one person. Recent neuroscience studies have also shown that this primary care relationship and partnership with a significant other is important for brain development.

As Pennie Brownlee says in her book 'Dance with me in the Heart' this partnership with tamariki is like a dance.

Your conversation with Boston was just like a beautiful, poetic dance. You didn't rush him and despite being a busy moment you remained unhurried and recognised that he needed you to recognise and notice his feelings.

By working with Boston in this way you are helping to equip him with the ability to recognise and identify his own feelings in the future and think about ways in which he can begin to find strategies to help him remain calm and regulate his emotions with greater independence.



Thank you, Kelly for your caring, respectful and nurturing approach to working with the tamariki in Pipi. During this moment with Boston you were completely present and you made Boston feel that he was listened to and valued, it was a beautiful korero. Your whole wairua helps to give our tamariki a sense of their own calm and models to them the respectful relationships we can have.

I know we are about to start an internal evaluation around transitions and I wonder how we can involve the transitions between care moments and rhythms of the day? I think this would be a very good opportunity to review what primary-caregiving means to us and really make peaceful caregiving our curriculum. What do you think?