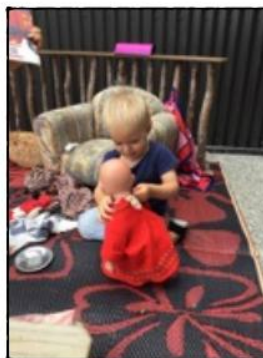


## Taking care of baby



Friday April 5th, 2019

Kia ora Finlay,

It has been a busy few weeks for you, exploring new opportunities and curiosities. We have enjoyed some lovely moments together too, as you share your new discoveries with me. We have had a few new friends start with us over the last wee while, which has meant that I have had to spend some time connecting with them. Sometimes it has been a challenge for you, but over time you have come to learn that I will always come back to reconnect with you, or that there are others in your world who you can hang out with.

I have so appreciated your understanding as I support our new friends. One friend in particular, Mackenzie, you have begun to take an interest in too. I love how you go up close to her and say "Hi" in the quietest voice with a smile. You have even shared one of your special 'raspberries' with Mackenzie, something I know you only reserve for special people in your world (Reuben being one of them) 😊.

In fact, I have noticed you taking more of an interest in our little babies, something I hadn't noticed before. This has led to moments where you have spent time taking care of our baby dollies. I remember your Mum sharing a story back in January when you discovered her pushchair and baby dolly. It is heartwarming to see the way you share your aroha with those around you.

Ka rawe e hoa ma.

### **What learning might I see happening here for Finlay?**

'Relationship is ALL' is our mantra in the Pepe Room, Finlay, and you value and hold dear your relationships with others. I can see that through the connections you make with adults, you are secure to explore and connect with your peers. This has become more apparent over the last few weeks, and you have taken it all in your stride. It is around this age that you do begin to notice your peers, and your interactions with them move from playing alongside to playing together. Relationship is one of the principles of our curriculum too, understanding that learning comes when you are connected with people and places.

It is important here to let Finlay know what is going to happen, when it is necessary for me or other teachers to help out his friends, to offer him choices to pursue while we attend to his friends, and to allow him time to process this and make the choice that works for him. I have noticed when we do this, Finlay is happy to move off to what he has chosen to do.

### **How might we support Finlay further in this learning?**

We will watch out for moments when Finlay is playing with his friends. We will continue to let him know what is going to happen and to allow him time to process and choose what he wants to do while tending to his friends.

# To my friend...

Monday September 23rd, 2019



Kia ora Finlay,

You have been having a wonderful time in the Teina Room. It has been lovely to see you enjoying all the new experiences in your new space. You are slowly making connections with your new teachers, as well as reconnecting with your old friends. You are stoked to be able to hang out with your big brother, Theo, too, and he is just as excited to show you the ropes as you settle into life and learning in the Teina Room.

I know we share a very special connection, so to see you spread your wings and fly, warms my heart. I shared a story with your mum about a little ritual you have created. It was the end of the day last Wednesday, and I was on my way home. You saw me and called out "Nita", running towards me with a big smile on your face. We talked for a little while about your day, mentioning that you looked like you had a great day. You smiled and nodded. I let you know that it was my time to go home, to which we did a high five, a fist pump, and a hongi. This is something we have done for a while. Then you added one more element: you kissed me on the shoulder. Then you went on your way, happy to play.

I left for home, with the biggest smile and the warmest heart! 💖 You repeated this ritual again on Friday, after we enjoyed the day together.

## **What learning might I see happening here for you, Finlay?**

You are taking everything in your stride as you settle into life and learning in the Teina Room. Allowing you time to make the transition to your new space is important, and while we have been available for you if needed, you already seem comfortable with your new space. Transitions happen throughout our lives, so to see how you are approaching this moment with increasing confidence shows me your growing sense of belonging. Transitions require having the courage to let go of the familiar and step into the new, something I know you need time to do so, like most of us. I admire your courage, as you learn to trust your new teachers, and venture out in your new space.

I know you are having a fabulous time, Finlay, and the ritual you have created tells me you are feeling more and more comfortable. It is also almost like you are telling me that you are going to ok, like a reassurance, which means the world to me.

## **How might I support your further in this learning, Finlay?**

We will continue to support you in your transition, allowing you to follow your curiosity, and to fly.

Of course, cuddles and catchups will always be available!

Arohanui,  
your friend,  
*Anita*