

Addison's new learning



He pūrakau kia Addison nga Kaiako
Lynne, August & September 2014

This term has been about you having the time to settle into a much longer morning session and finding new things of interest and different children to play with. It has been a big term for you Addison and your family with a new baby sister Iria arriving and you becoming a big brother.

It was fun to watch you and Dad playing hide and seek one morning and you were laughing so hard you hardly run away to hide. You chose the boxes as your hiding place but I think Dad found you every time because you were laughing so much.

At the beginning of the term you and Dad were part of the blessing of the carved panels under our verandah, which was a very special celebration of the panels being unveiled for us all to see. The penguin group took some time during the morning to touch the panels and get a close up look at them, you noticed the piwakawaka (fantail) carving and you ran your finger over the outline to get a sense of the design. Then we sat down to draw it together and we will do that again soon Addison, now that you have lots of time to notice it and think about the designs further.

Addison and Dad share their skills



Addison has shared his love of cooking and baking at kindergarten since he first started, and we wondered if his passion came from his Dad as he is a baker. So we invited Gareth along to come and make bread once Addison was in morning kindergarten. Addison was very excited to have his Dad there, and it became obvious that the passion for baking had come from home. Addison was right alongside his dad during the baking and he seemed to know what to do. At lunchtime Addison loved sharing out the bread he and his Dad had made during the morning and he was the perfect host, interacting with the children as he passed it around "Would you like some bread?" What a wonderful way for your family to share their skills with our kindergarten family Addison. Thanks Gareth the smells and bread were delicious.

Ahakoia he iti, he pounamu - it might be small but it is treasured.



Ka rawe tō mahi!

Great work!



Addison's small group explorations



Addison helped Cohen to count the monkeys so that the crocodile could take them home for tea. There are lots of spontaneous opportunities for number fun.

Addison is learning about being part of the penguin group, how he can contribute and what is expected of him alongside others.



Addison is surrounded by maths and numeracy everyday, when the penguins lined up we discovered who was the tallest and who was the smallest.

Exploring maths through meaningful group experiences.



He loves the big number, shape and rhyming book, with pages of playful problem solving and counting. He has asked for this book many times.



The Penguin groups recent visit to the school library gives Addison further reading experiences and he is learning about the expectations during library time. Addison enjoyed the zoo book animal size and shape.

Addison's new interest in photography



Addison asked me for my camera one day and I happily gave it to him as I was a little intrigued to see what he planned to take photos of. He set off looking pretty confident that he knew the photos he wanted, quickly lining up the sandpit he took several shots first, then moved off around the outdoor areas to take photos. I thought to myself "I don't think that I have noticed Addison with a camera for a while now". He was keen to review his photos and he told me he was very pleased with the photos he had taken and we looked at them together. He hadn't quite finished so he set off again, only to return with 3 photos of Olivia who had posed nicely for him and several of his fingers and his feet. This is all part of learning about how cameras work Addison.



Addison's self assesses his learning



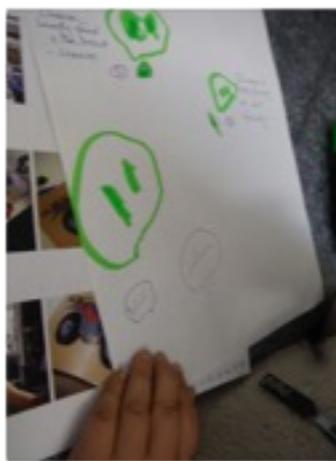
I asked Addison to assess how his learning was going at kindergarten with a visual planner, he was very honest and thoughtful. He highlighted some to show that he can do them and some to show that he is still learning to do them.



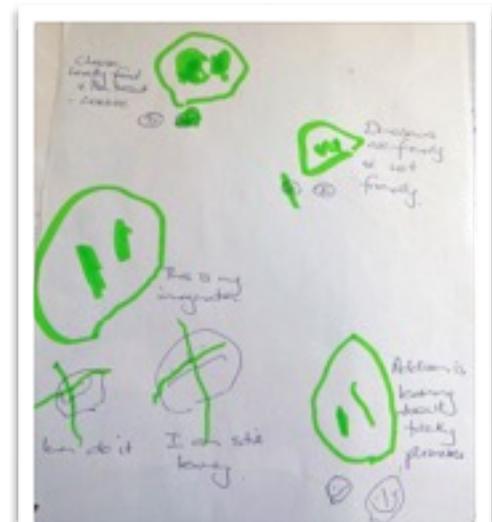
Addison really enjoyed telling me about himself, so I showed him some photos of other things not on the sheet to prompt some thinking. He decided to draw his own learning visuals, copying the ideas on the sheet with smiley faces. Addison thought critically about it and he clearly articulated what he is still working on.



I have to say Addison that I was super proud of you as no other child has decided to draw their own learning before like this.



As I had noticed that Addison had been testing out his physical skills this term I also asked him about the monkey bars. He told me that he can get to No. 4 and he will probably have to get bigger, maybe when he is 5 he will get to No. 16. Tino pai tēnei he akonga mea ora - this is being a good learner Addison.



Learning about being part of a community of learners.

What learning is happening - He aha te mātauranga i te ako?

Addison I have thought deeply about your learning this term and the key words that best describe your learning, you have had some big challenges in the morning session. You have been learning to collaborate with others, show self control and respect for others, you have been learning about coping with change, seeing others points of view and taking more responsibility for your own learning journey. You are learning about being a contributing member of the penguin group, following the routines and group rules and this is helping you to learn about developing relationships with others. You are beginning to see yourself as a learner who is capable of acquiring new interests, such as photography and self assessing your own learning. You are developing the knowledge and skills you need to be a contributing member of the kindergarten community and to be able to find some leadership to show others your love of number and storytelling.

The teachers know the importance of children "being socially competent", which means that you are learning to make group decisions, learning to stand up for yourself, learn to take responsibility for your own actions, contribute your ideas and interests, and develop a sense of "who you are" and the ways in which you are valued here. This also means learning about making connections and building relationships with a growing number of peers. The experience of both having friends and being a friend is one of huge learning for Addison. Friendships help Addison develop both socially and emotionally, and gives him a perfect way of practicing different ways of relating. Through friendships Addison is learning about rules, about fairness and justice, about empathy, co-operation and working with others who may have different views. Practicing in real life situations is the way Addison is growing his ability to work successfully with others. We can never underestimate the complexity of social learning and the enormous effort needed, to make friends, work in a group and participate fully in a community (Alison Brierley Educational Leadership Project 2011).

I think the following quote says it all really " play gives kids countless opportunities to "bump into" other kids and experience conflict.

The more your child practices when to speak up, what words to say, how to find the courage to assert himself- the more naturally he will be able to navigate the complex web of social relationships". (Heather Schumaker)

Opportunities and Possibilities - Ngā hua pea-ngā taumata?

The possibilities are exciting and the next learning journey is already underway Addison, as we see you challenging yourself physically, finding out how your body can move through space and you have had to persevere with difficulty at times and then have the courage to return to try again. It is clearly evident that you are developing an understanding of yourself as a physical learner alongside your peers. Research has shown that boys need to move to learn and that boys communicate, plan and problem solve on the move, and moving is a great way for Addison and his friends to explore feelings, emotions and work out ways to work together. Our early childhood curriculum Te Whaariki supports this view through the Exploration Strand, Mana Aotūroa, "Children experience an environment where they learn strategies for active, exploration, thinking and reasoning".

