

"I AM UP TO NO. 10 ON THE MONKEY BARS"

A story for you and your whanau by Lynne - *He kōrero kia koe, me to koutou whanau i te kaiako Lynne - September 2014.*



What an exciting moment Lachlan when you so confidently swung yourself down the monkey bars, you surprised us all. We didn't know you had already been practicing and Mum was a little surprised too but very proud of you. I remember at the beginning of the year inviting you to take up the challenge of mastering the monkey bars. You weren't quite sure that you were ready yet, telling me that you had a different decision.

Our monkey bars are difficult to master, but I was super excited that you had quietly got on with the job of practicing and that you had the self belief that you could do it. I thought back to your other learning stories and remembered that we had talked about you being a physical learner and I realised that is exactly what you are doing now. You are continually choosing so many different challenges and different interests to stretch you outside of your comfort zone Lachlan. You are showing a new readiness to do this. You have seen so many children heading down the monkey bars before you, as there is a culture of monkey bar experts at kindergarten, so once you had reached No. 10 you jumped down and came over for that celebratory high 5. Ka rawe Lachlan - Awesome Lachlan!



You swung down with great ease Lachlan.



You paused for a moment wondering if you could go further.



You dropped down at No. 10 happy that you gave it your best.



We see a Lachlan with a new sense of physical adventure this term. When you set off on the tractor from the top of the mound I had to close my eyes for a minute as it was a little tricky to steer. You believed in yourself Lachlan and it worked out really well, with lots of fun being had. I simply love your face it says it all- a new sense of adventure and fun!



Your time spent at the monkey bars, has also been an opportunity to share your learning with other children. I heard you telling some children and teachers the other day that you can do the monkey bars now.

There is a new sense of determination to master many different physical challenges and the bike and rings at the gym are no exception.

When we visited Harold the Giraffe in the caravan he told you all being keeping yourself healthy and active, riding your bike and eating good food. You really enjoyed Harold's messages which has also helped you to see yourself as a physical learner keeping yourself active and embracing challenge as a new skill.

Ka rawe tou mahi. Fabulous work Lachlan.

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

Lachlan, you are making new discoveries about the things your body can do and challenging yourself to take on difficulty, we call this persisting with difficulty and being resilient. Guy Claxton, a professor has developed a learning model that really describes your learning so well. He talks about "being resilient", which means that you like a challenge, you have learnt that learning is hard sometimes, you are not afraid to make mistakes and you can persevere. You were testing and retesting your upper body strength and co-ordination. Movement is at the core of how children develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and of course physically. The development of large limb strength is important as you develop strength from head to toe, and from the centre of your body to the tips. Upper body strength develops before the fine motor skills of fingers which allows you to hold a pen and then create shapes and letters with confidence and strength. It is the order of this development which is important. Hence why at kindergarten we provide many physical experiences to then prepare you for when you show an interest in things such as writing your stories, which of course Lachlan has been practicing for a while now.

Lachlan is learning to set his own physical goals and he is taking responsibility for driving his own learning journey to master the monkey bars. He is learning to take responsible risks such as riding the tractor down the hill at speed. He is growing in confidence with the physical challenge of the monkey bars and firmly had his eyes on No. 10 and now No. 16. As you take up the physical challenges on offer at kindergarten Lachlan, you are learning about goal setting, and that with practice you can achieve the goals you set for yourself. Carol Dweck, a leading writer in early childhood education, talks about when children are oriented towards learning goals they strive to increase their competence, to understand or master something new. It is common at Nayland to hear children talk about practicing. This is often in a measured way about a goal; either as something new to learn, something I am still working on or I have worked hard at this and now I can do it. So along with the skill to set a goal comes the ability to persevere, to reflect on one's own progress and measure when success has been achieved. Goal setting encourages you to problem solve, make decisions, and develop a sense of responsibility for your own learning, just as we have seen you doing in this story.

He aroaro ka huri ki te wā kāinga e kore e tau ki raro.

If an objective is compelling, one pursues it without pausing.

Opportunities and Possibilities - Ngā hua pea-ngā taumata?

We will continue to support you as you strive to get to No. 16 on the Nayland Kindergarten monkey bars and soon you will be able to transfer that to other learning domains, that you are ready to tackle next term. I can't wait to see what other responsible risks you might take Lachlan, I wonder if you are ready to go higher, faster and for longer on the many physical challenges each week. Maybe you have got some ideas about how the playground should look and how it could be more challenging?