

Ra tatou - Waiwai kai kapua - 28th Whiringa-ā-nuku.



Ball sports are a much loved activity at Waewae kai kapua. We all know that korikori improves hauora, supports brain connection in the early years and that participation in any sports builds a foundation from which a life-time of sport participation develops. What many don't realise is that our sport is literally a vehicle for social skills. Through ball games and other sporting activities our tamariki are learning to play well with others (a non-competitive manner is encouraged) learning skills such as ; -cooperation, communication, listening, sharing, teamwork and sportsmanship. Our tamariki have a lot of energy and through collaborative kemu which is fun, they can reduce levels of anxiety, detoxify and hopefully sleep better!

At waewae kai kapua our tamariki have the space to explore a variety of sporting activities and engage in fun collaborative play that enables them to explore their bodies and how they move.



Some of our tuakana tama were exploring an obstacle course - how to balance and manoeuvre around challenging objects. Kia kaha e hoa mā! Love the challenges you set yourselves! Awa was showing Wolf how she can balance on a reel and get it to move using her body weight. Wolf was determined to try and top marks for perseverance my friend. Getting up was hard work but staying on top of a moving object just 'didn't work! I can't do it whaea Nicki. Not like Awa can!' Wolf loved it that you tried, assessed the difficulty but remained resilient when you toppled over. Kai pai hoki koe!



Exploring with our tools! We struggled to remember about kaitiakitanga and how as stewards of our atauha space down

the back we need to look after our huarākau. We know if we pick all the apricots now we will have none left to eat but it's so much fun to smash and cut them open to see what's inside!



Authentic experiences with real tools mean that experiences, learning, and life are connected in meaningful ways for our tamariki. When engaged in real life experiences our tamariki to become confident, involved learners who develop a love of learning. I was super excited to hear comparisons made between their mahi today and the activity on the railway line! "We're just like the digger men eh whaea coz we can fix things and make things straight like them eh!" You sure can Tamatoa!

Engaged in holistic learning tamariki develop working theories and through hands on exploration (with real tools for example) these theories are constantly revised and evolving as children gain more experience and information through their mahi!





We were intrigued to watch a spider catch, wrap and eat a fly today! Interaction with nature enables our tamariki to understand more about life cycles, how things work and why! These experiences in the outdoors enhance the vocabulary development of tamariki as they make connections between the physical world and the language used to describe it as a collective. A true sense of ako as we learn from one another!

This was also an exercise in observation as tamariki ran a running commentary on the process. "Look the spider is running real fast" - Bella. "Yep and the fly is flapping. He flapping, he stuck. Can't fly away!" said Manaaki. "Ouch" said Awa as the spider grabbed the fly. "Oh dear, he's all tangled up now", commented Victor as the spider wrapped the fly. "Yes and he's gonna eat him now" said Bella. They called their friends over to see. Eli was not impressed. "Eew yuck!" Leo was intrigued and he explained to us about how the spider ate the fly, with his hands showing the jaws using a sideways movement. Ka pai hoki koe Leo. I wonder how you knew that. Thank you for sharing this with us. I know we have read a lot about spiders in a pukapuka we have here but maybe you enjoy observing nature at home with your whanau!



Foot size was also important today' Surprisingly enough, these two feet were the same size. I wonder how resilient we would have been had one child had a bigger foot!



Friendships have been really important at Wae wae kai kapua today!
It has been interesting to observe these evolve and change as the day progressed.



Bella and Manaaki have been focused on pizza making this week. Sharing the mahi and carrying out trays of coffee and pizza to sell. Manaaki and Victor enjoyed a chat session at the carpentry area. I overheard conversations about whānau at work. Victor explained his Dad was good at building cool stuff. Manaaki said Jonny could hammer real good too! Totipuaki and Ryker spent a good part of the day negotiating turn taking in the trolley. They worked out they could steer the trolley with the handle if someone pushed them down the hill. When taking turns, they discovered they could run behind the trolley and jump in as back seat passenger and enjoy the ride too. They learnt that it was too hard to pull the trolley up the hill with two or more passengers. Yes, there were some tears and tantrums about turn taking and inviting or allowing others to join but overall Kaiako were super impressed with their ability to communicate, plan and work together in a fun and collaborative way. Sam and Wolf are playing and having a kōrero together I love the way they listen to

one another, both are very opinionated but seem to be able to compromise and engage with one another in a respectful manner. Tino pai kē!

So how do our daily activities support the learning we value at Waewae Kai Kapua? Discussions with a Kaiako who walked beside me today enabled me to underpin the following values (as stated in our plan) present and alive in action!

-Relationships to Papatūānuku and each other based on aroha and respect.

- To grow and flourish at one with nature in a challenging environment.

- There are equitable opportunities for all tamariki to contribute to learning, problem solving, mahi tahi, routines, tuakana-teina, ārahitanga- linking their own uniqueness to the unique environment and community in which we learn together.

-Provide wide open spaces and open-ended resources for child led play.

-Stand strong as a reflection of their ancestors as they explore relationships and the environment allowing them to access to knowledge.

We can see how play today supports emotional, behavioural, and intellectual development. Tamariki who learn outdoors develop: a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline and initiative. Why wouldn't we be pleased with Akoranga-tū-ā-nuku!

"Nature inspires creativity in a child
by demanding visualization
and the full use of the senses....
In nature a child finds
freedom, fantasy, privacy..."

Last Child in the Woods
Richard Louv