

A moment to be leaderful.

One of the great aspects of our farm trips are the opportunities to be leaderful. Ethan needed a stick, and just across the stream were plenty. However, getting across the stream provided a challenge. Blake had just crossed the stream by using a fallen branch as a bridge, and I could see Ethan watching closely. Ethan was keen to try, but not quite sure where to start and so Blake came back over to give him a demonstration. “See, put your hands on here and go across,” Blake advised. Ethan watched closely, and then, with Blake continuing to encourage him, slowly moved across the stream to the other side. Success!



My thoughts on Blake's learning.

A huge part of our farm experiences are working together as a team. Moments like this, that recognise when a fellow team-mate needs some support and finding a way to support them is learning that we really value. Why? Because this is real. The recognition that someone needs some help, and then taking a moment to support them is the sort of learning that makes you an active part of your community. A community in which people take the time and effort to get involved and through this, we grow ourselves. I didn't ask Blake how he felt after helping Ethan, although his face showed me that it felt great to help Ethan achieve his goal.

The strands of our curriculum, *Te Whāriki* include Mana Tangata. When Lady Tilly Reedy, one of the writers of *Te Whāriki* describes Mana Tangata, she asks “Who are you as a human being? What are we? What footprints are we going to leave in this world?” Our farm trips give us experiences and create memories that become our values, attitudes and beliefs. Blake sees himself as someone who is supportive and kind - an active member of ‘Team Wednesday’.

Where might this learning lead to for Blake?

Blake's sense of belonging and connections are well established as part of ‘Team Wednesday’ and in the centre. In a short while, he will be going off to school and this sense of being part of a community will help him grow strong relationships and find his place in a new community. In the mean time though, I look forward to Blake continuing to take opportunities to show the new members of our Forest Farm Adventurers how we support each other through the challenges we find out on our adventures.

Arohanui, Tanya.

