

When Courage Shows Up.....

It shows up in many ways

Caleb, 4 years 2017/18

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A Rainbow Clock Gift



Today Caleb you had another of your brilliant ideas! When you declared that “the fish needs a rainbow clock” I knew we had to get to work figuring out how this could come to life.

It was clear you had an image in your mind of exactly what this would be and how it would work. I only hoped we had everything we needed on hand for you to make it happen!

You got to work collecting paper and mixing some paints and decided that your clock would go all the way up to number 14 so you set to work writing. It took a lot of energy and persistence to write these numbers.

“2, 4 and 5 are tricky ones”.

On occasion, you would cross out your attempt and try another. I was really pleased to see you doing this Caleb as in the past you would throw out your work if you were not satisfied with it and start all over again. Not this time! I personally loved seeing how you have left traces of your effort & persistence on your work. I knew it took courage for you to leave your attempts scribbled out on your work!

Taking a Risk Means Trusting Others



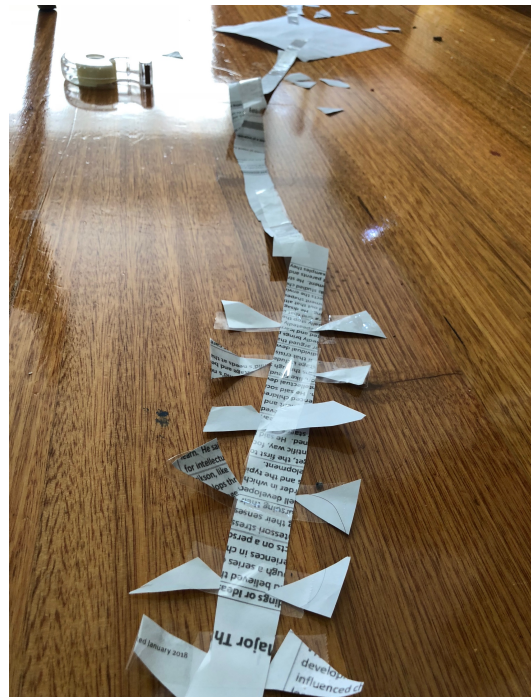
Caleb since the beginning of the year I could see the monkey bars captivated you yet at the same time I could also see you found them a bit scary. It took you some time to actually get onto the bars but in the meantime, you observed others, watched their process and techniques and then shared your observations with me. It was as though you were working up your confidence to give it a go but in your own way. I could see and hear you considering the risks (like what if I fall) yet at the same time showing your keen interest (by always watching). I wonder how long before I would see you up on those bars?

A few days later there you were on those bars desperate to show me your 3 tricks.

**“Hanging upside down on the monkey bars is hard,
I can’t let go of both hands yet but I can do some
tricky things”**

Interesting how something a bit scary is also deeply compelling. I wonder what strategies you will gather to finally ‘let go’? You were so excited every day to practice on those bars!. Finally the day came 8 months later.....after reflecting on these images together you declared “but I can do that now, I actually can”. I was led outside and as Caleb climbed those bars I could see his smiling reaching ear to ear, a sense of pride at what he was about to show me. First you revisited the tricks and then you said “come and hold my feet” and once I had them you let go! WOW....there you were upside down! Awesome courage Caleb!

Its Not Just a Kite.....it’s an Idea



Over the last few weeks we have been reading “What do you do with an idea” by Kobi Yamada. I wonder if this has stimulated Caleb’s courage to give his ideas a go.....

Caleb when you gathered a collection of papers on the floor this morning I knew it wasn't just any old pile of papers. You had something in mind and you were bursting to tell me about the kite creation you were about to undertake. But first I knew you wanted to talk it through and this is what caught my attention:

- "It's a BIG project so I need lots of sticky tape"
- "Does paper actually fly in the wind?"
- "I need to paint it, but not black cause that's heavy"

I didn't give you any answers but we pondered on this together. I wonder if it will actually fly? All day you engaged in this project, sharing your theories and hopefulness. The anticipation was definitely building. Off we went outside when the moment came and you took off running at full speed.....yelling out "IS IT GOING UP, IS IT GOING UP" and guess what! It did! Your face was beaming when you realised paper actually flies and your idea actually worked!

It takes courage to put your ideas 'out there', share them with others, develop them and give them a try. We risk the possibility of it not actually working out! On this occasion though, it did and I could see because of your courage your confidence just grew that little bit more. The risk is worth it!

Reflection

Caleb, you have shown me just how courageous you are! You have also shown me that it is ok to make mistakes, take a risk and try out new ideas! In different ways, these stories highlight how courage is not in a single act but in a developing and interconnecting process over time that builds one's capacity. Courage almost certainly is associated with motivation and results in building confidence which was so evident across these narratives. I look forward to your ongoing acts of courage Caleb!

Questions for consideration

- How do our spaces encourage children to exercise their courage?
- What does courage look like to different children?
- What fears, challenges and difficulties are children facing? How might courage be seen in the context of adversity?
- How do we make visible the challenge in order to celebrate the courage?
- How do we create permission for imperfection?
- What does it take to be brave? Do we use language that speaks back to children about their bravery, courage and ability to be adventurous?