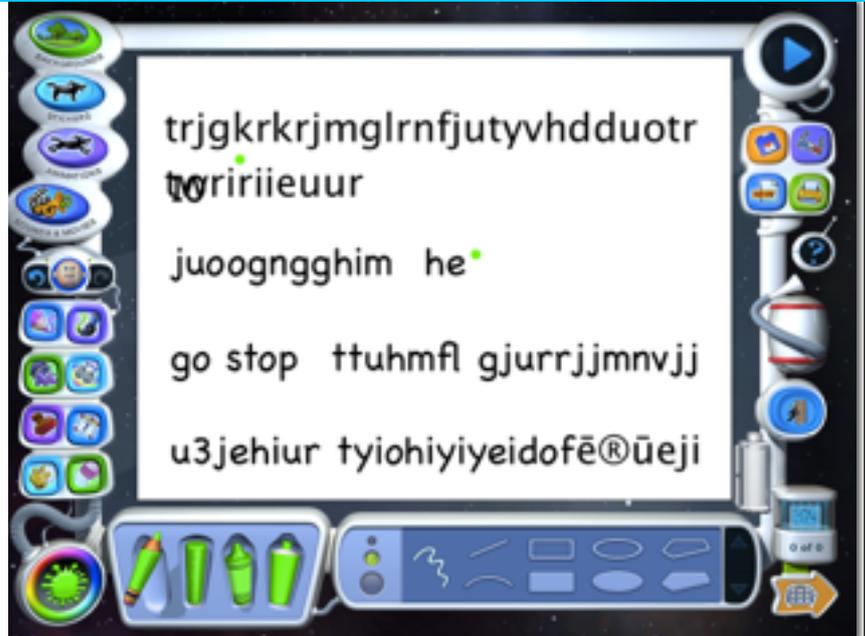


COHEN'S MULTI-LITERACIES

A story for you and your whanau by Lynne - *He kōrero hoki a koutou, me to koutou whanau i te kaiako Lynne- June 2014.*

Cohen's love of literacies connects him with his world and with other children. He explores digital literacy through the computers, ipads, cameras, telephone system and visual literacy by writing his name, drawing pictures or creating artwork. We know that Cohen is passionate about digital literacy and using kidpix to communicate his ideas and to make his thinking visible is one of his strengths. Cohen loves words and letters that are of interest to



him and this has been evident every since he started at kindergarten. Digital technology is “his thing”, and research shows that boys in particular are motivated to be literate through the use of computers and ipads. I was thinking back Cohen to when you first started kindergarten and you spent weeks using the cameras to find out what they could do, you had a master plan I think to use the camera as a way to engage with others. Your curiosity drives you to learn about how things work Cohen and you persevere with it until you have developed working theories about it.



A shared interest paves the way to friendships and shared learning.

Visual arts are a literacy that is highly valued at Nayland Kindergarten.



Cohen's visual literacy interest is strong, and when he came upon Reuben and friends drawing a city he immediately had an idea. It was his own idea to draw a roading system, with roads marked out with clear centre lines, signs to show people which way to go and traffic lights to direct people in the right direction and to stop the flow of traffic. Cohen interpreted the large drawings done by the other children and then he very carefully thought out what he could do to add to the story evolving before his eyes. This just shows how deeply Cohen thinks and we often talk to children about "thinking about their thinking" and use the word "metacognition". Whatever Cohen is doing he thinks it through, with the bubble wrap rollers he took it a step further and folded his paper in half so that he had an identical image on both sides. When he had a turn at screen printing he immediately went back to repeat the process and do another one. Each time he chose different colours and I am sure that his thinking was that he wanted to see if it would look different, just as he had done with the bubble wrap rolling a couple of days earlier. Cohen loves to explore process, he likes his work to be different from others and he repeats his learning many

Communicating ideas orally and visually. Working in a group project.



We are sharing the Maori creation story with the children, so that can make connections with how we care for Papatuanuku/mother earth. Cohen was very engaged in helping to create the ocean for Tangaroa. He had wonderful ideas about what colors to use and what creatures to put in it the sea. He drew an eel and a shark and then later added the silver pieces that go the along the sides of the scene “This is Tahunanui beach, this is the sand “ he said.



This photo shows Cohen telling The penguin group all about the pikitia. Cohen is also a oral storyteller and being able to draw his thinking and collaborate with others means that he can read the story through visual cues. Cohen is really drawn to children who have similar literacy interests as him and Isla is one of those children as she enjoys signing in, drawing and creating big artworks that have a story to tell.

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

Cohen's passion for technology and the arts connects him with a growing number of children who also share the same passions too. Cohen's interests in being literate are diverse, and this is very evident throughout his learning stories. He applies his working theories to technology and his new passion for the arts. His big thinking on paper is now engaging him with a wider range of children and is deepening his learning and providing him with different mediums to communicate.

We have a wonderful resource book called "The language of Art" by Ann Pelo and her description of art is superb - "Art describes a lively process of engagement with a range of materials that is creative and deliberate and deepens and extends children's learning".

As teachers we are deliberate about setting up an environment and programme so that Cohen can work with others to purposefully share his ideas and skills. If we think more broadly about the arts and being creative then it also encompasses Cohen's kidpix writing and artwork and his creativity with the camera, as photography is a visual art too.

Cohen's story highlights, the Communication strand of our early childhood curriculum Te Whāriki, which talks about expressing ideas through a range of mediums, through his interests, and by expressing himself verbally and non verbally and being creative.

Opportunities and Possibilities - Ngā hua pea-ngā taumata?

Already Cohen's interests in the arts have been extended with a visit to the Art Gallery, we look forward to seeing how Cohen uses some of these ideas in future artwork.

The teachers are excited by the new research coming out about the value of ipads in early childhood, provide exciting learning opportunities for Cohen and friends. The research shows how ipads support cognitive thinking, collaboration, creativity and innovation as an interactive medium. The teachers will continue to challenge Cohen to think of new and different ways to use technology to support his learning and to be literate and e-literate. The boys workshop also reinforces the need for Cohen to revisit this learning many times to consolidate his thinking.

