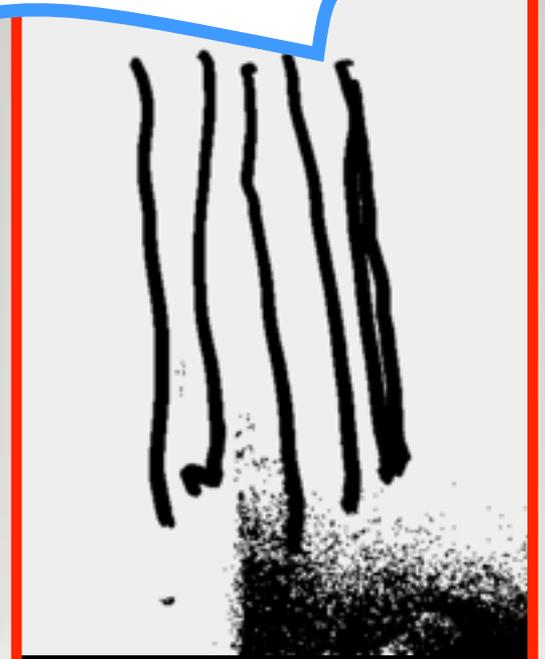


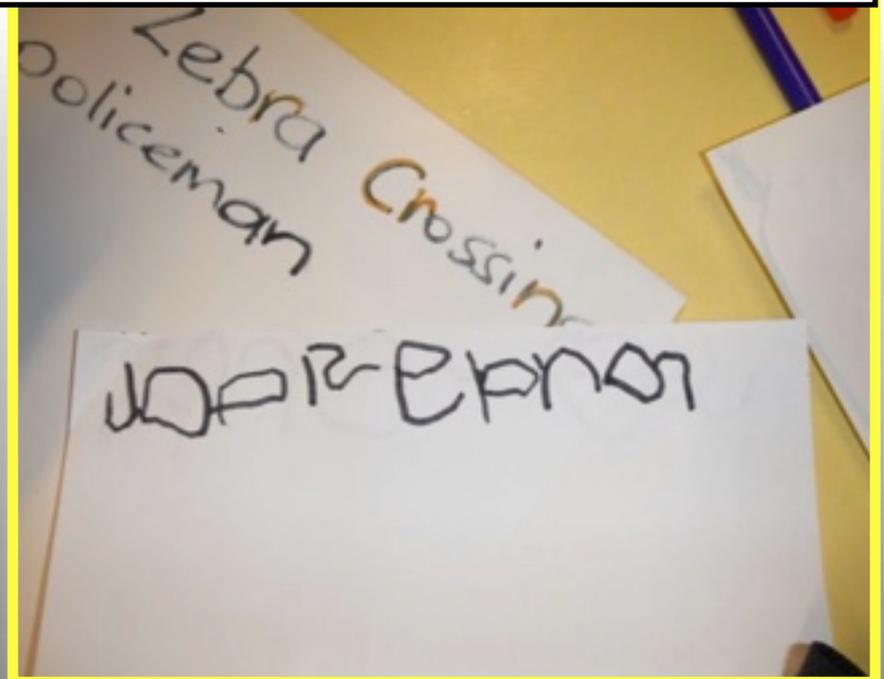
JOEL THE PLANNER



Joel told me that he wanted to do that thing again. "Draw it for me Joel", I said. He drew me the road crossing. "I want to put up a sign to help kids cross the road, like I did last time", Joel said .



Yo
u write
them and I
will copy
them.



Joel told me that he wanted to write the words for the sign, and he told me the words he needed, Joel the Zebra Crossing Policeman. Joel worked away for about 40 minutes on his sign. Amazing effort Joel.

JOEL THE SIGNWRITER



This is a lot of writing, but I am doing it.



Joel had written his sign 3 times and on the 3rd sign we used a little bit of twink to cover a letter that was a bit wobbly. We decided to photocopy it.



...
This is the place.

STOP!

See my important sign, I am Joel the Zebra Crossing Policeman.

This was a very special moment when the sign went up, Joel had a plan worked out in his head and he was determined to follow it through. I was so proud of the way he worked on writing each letter and word making sure they were perfect. The sign was a momentous moment in history for Joel's learning journey at kindergarten.



I WILL NEED A WHISTLE!



Joel and I looked for something to make a whistle out of. Joe reminded me that he would need something to tie it around my neck his neck. We found a piece of string in the art area that was just right. He tried it out but no noise came out, so I suggested a hole in the end.

I had to move away at that stage but I didn't want to miss the whistle creation, so I placed the little video recorder on the table to capture Joel's whistle making.

"What's that?" Joel asked, coming around my side of the camera to see what I could see.

"Are you photoing me?", he asked.

"Yes I am Joel", I answered.

Joel then said " I don't need a whistle anyway,I can whistle with my fingers".

He moved around behind the video camera and decided it was much more interesting than whistle making.

Curiosity won through.



WOW

Zebra Crossing
Policeman

Joel's drawing

AWESOME

Joel is writing for purpose, it is in the context of his play, his passions and his interests. While he was writing his very long title for the sign I noticed him copying around the letters with his finger, to get a feel for the letter and word. When he did his "a" the stick on the side wasn't quite what he wanted, I suggested that the stick would stop it from falling over and he laughed and continued to write. He told me he had done a good "e", I agreed. When he did the "Z", he said "it is a funny one, but it doesn't matter". When he got to the end of the line and he had run out of space he said "Oh no this isn't going to be good". "I know he said I can just come down underneath". Great thinking Joel!!!

JOEL'S ZEBRA CROSSING
POLICEMAN

JOEL THE SIGNWRITER

Joel and I had been writing together for about 30 minutes when I got called away and we called Lynette over to sit alongside Joel. He was having so much success with his handwriting that we wanted to optimise the time for him.

These are some of the things that he said....

It's fun drawing.

That's the wrong way for a "Z", it giggles. He turns the page over and does the "Z" again. It's straight now". I'm doing mine little.

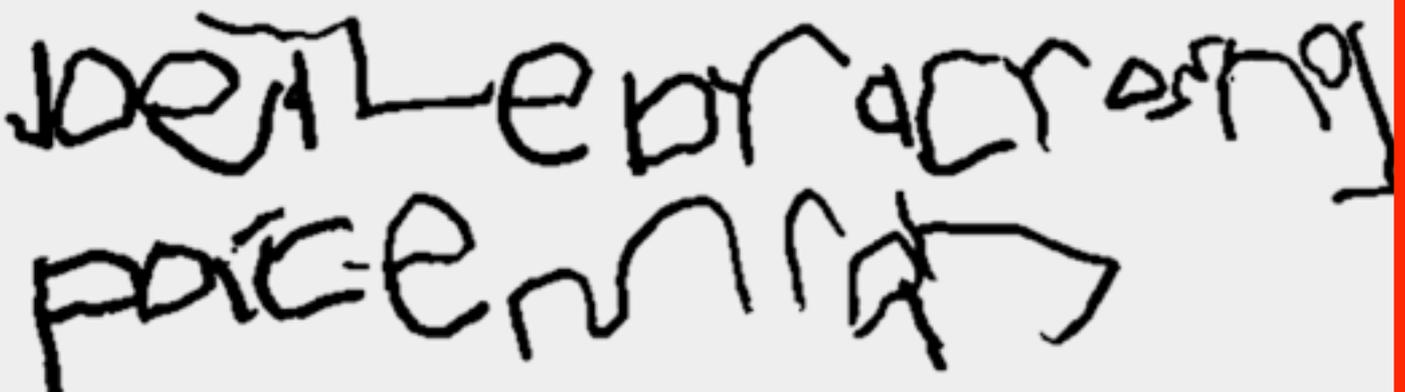
People make numbers small and big, funny ah.

He points to his "S" and says, that almost looks like a 3.

Pointing to his "m", that's not right, I'll start again.

I returned again just as he was about to start his very long title again and asked how we could fix it. Joel suggested white paint and I thought what a good idea, teachers use it so why shouldn't Joel. So off to the office I went and returned with the white out stick, we covered the tricky "m", Joel was happy and he finished the job.

What an amazing effort Joel, your title is simply fabulous.



JOEL THE SIGNWRITER
PRICE ENHANCING



WHO TO
CHOOSE?

Joel then had the important job of choosing 9 friends to come out the gate and learn about walking safely across the Zebra crossing.

Joel took his job very seriously and he told the children the rules before we went out the gate. It is hard to have a serious talk without a smile on your face sometimes Joel. I handed my whistle to Joel as we walked out the gate, "have you washed it Lynne?". "Sure have Joel", I replied almost splitting my sides





**FOLLOW
ME
PEOPLE**

"Now you did a good job crossing the zebra crossing, so now we have to go back so follow me", Joel told them. Sorry Joel I couldn't take any photos of us crossing the big zebra crossing as it was busy with traffic.



ATTENTION





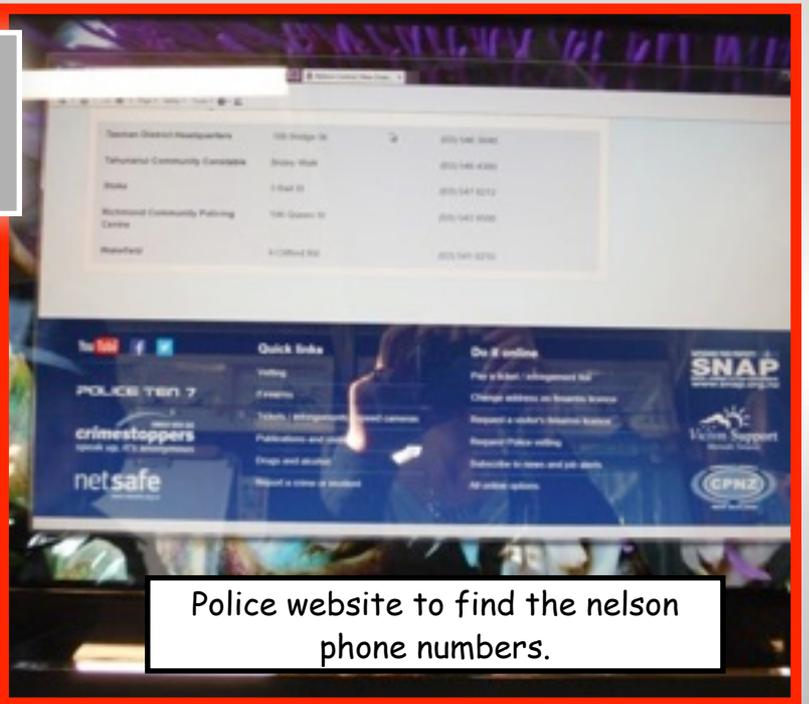
Joel had planned and carried out a very successful and safe operation on the zebra crossing. He was very happy with himself and so he should have been. Joel is helping the teachers out with the kindergarten safety programme.



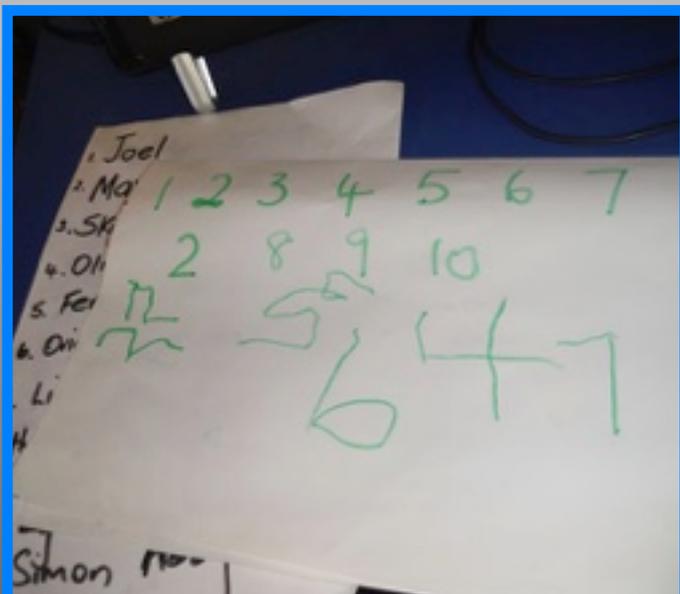
Joel copied the police station phone number to call them to see if someone could visit.



I am a very important policeman.



Police website to find the Nelson phone numbers.



I asked Joel if he would like the Nelson Zebra Crossing Policeman to visit kindergarten and if so we could write a letter or give them a ring. He decided it would be a good idea to ring them. We haven't made contact yet but we may try again after the holidays.

BE SAFE ON THE ROAD



Joel Zebra
Crossing
police officer

police officer

Joel Zebra Crossing
Police Officer

We need Joel the Zebra Crossing Policeman to help us keep safe on the zebra crossings. He is a very important policeman who looks after kids. He is also a wonderful sign writer and planner.
JOEL HAS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB.

JOEL ZEBRA CROSSING
POLICE OFFICER

What learning is happening for Joel? E aha te mātauranga i te ako o Joel ?

When I started writing this story Mike and Joel, I had to really think about what was different from the the policeman, doctor and fireman stories. I decided to write it as a comic learning story to truly capture its energy.

I know that our early years shape who we are and Joel is intent on finding a job that helps other people, which is "who he is". He has been part of the fireman,policeman and doctor play for sometime now, and I think he was ready to find another role for himself, hence the Zebra Crossing Policeman. That doesn't mean that he won't go back and revisit these other roles because he does, but he has thought hard to find himself a unique role that has not been taken up by other children yet. His comment about "looking after kids" in this role is very insightful, and he carries out this role out with such dedication and intent. I am always delighted to see the little smile cross his face or a sudden pose, because that is Joel and is what we have come to enjoy so much about him.

Joel has developed the capacity to discuss and negotiate rules, rights and fairness and he has learnt to take full responsibility for his actions at kindergarten. (There has to be room for a little movement here as he is a 4 year old boy on a learning journey).

When you think about the role/roles he has chosen to play out, they are all about fairness and justice with a genuine desire to help others.

He has learnt that writing is an enjoyable experience, and that the symbols he writes can be read by others and serve a purpose. He has set himself a goal to create a new role, write a sign and carry out a drill, Joel is a planner. He also knows that the teachers and children really value his input and his ideas and he adds value to the programme for others too.

Joel's interest in writing words has now moved into writing numbers with purpose, he is learning to use this as a resource to further his play. Joel has a perception of himself as capable of acquiring new skills and interests.

Our early childhood curriculum, Te Whāriki talks about the importance of children developing a sense of who they are, their place in the wider world and the ways in which they are valued.

Carol Dweck talks about children having a "growth mindset" that allows them to persist even with setbacks, they push through obstacles to try and try again.

This very much reminded me of Joel as he tackled very long words in his sign, he talked about his wobbly letters and when confronted by lack of room, he problem solved it by starting again. When he had almost finished and the "m" wasn't quite right he said "I know you could get that white paint to cover it", again problem solving an potential problem. Joel has figured it out, he sees himself as a learner able to make mistakes and able to try again and again with his writing.

We are all so incredibly proud of his efforts.

Tino pai tenei he akonga mea ora - this is being a great learner.

Opportunities and Possibilities - Ngā hua pea-ngā taumata.

There will be lots of opportunities for Joel to explore his new interest in writing words and numbers every day as he goes about his business. I noticed that you have already taken an opportunity to share your comic story at mat time today. (In true Joel style he came out and said "I did it Lynne", then he went "Yeah" pumping his arm and smiling. Maybe you are ready for a new goal Joel?? I am going to challenge you to climb the climbing wall, ropes and monkey bars next term to develop your upper body strength to support you with your amazing writing. Maybe you would like to make up a comic story, just like your Zebra Policeman story, about your next adventure on the outdoor challenges?

**KEEP PRACTICING
JOEL**

