

The Art of Balancing!

May 2012 by Megan



Lily has been curious about creating spaces for herself. She has noticed her friend Jack making them and decided to try for herself! Today I noticed Lily shift her thinking to making spaces in another area – construction. Lily and Aimee had made a house for the animals when I became curious and wondered what was happening

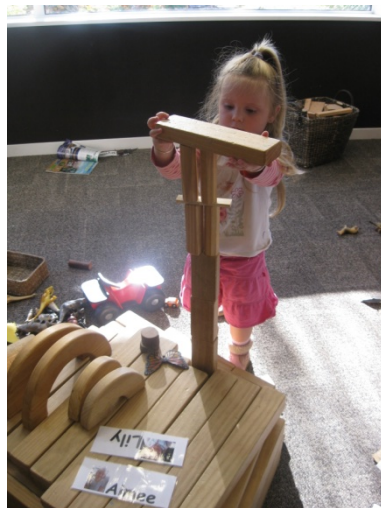


“Making a house for the animals” Lily told me when I asked. “it’s ours” There is a selection of animals inside the house. Lily chooses animals to go inside the house. “This is the Mum and that’s the big sister” Lily and Aimee continue to role play with the animals walking them inside and outside the house.



I noticed that Lily was adding blocks to the building. “what’s happening now Lily?” I asked “oh just building something – we just need.....I get the long blocks..... Because this the chimney” Lily tells me while she is working.

I wasn't the only person intrigued by your construction – Coen asked you “who built that?” “me and Aimee” you replied to him. “is it done yet?” Coen said “No we're still building” you replied back to him.



Lily continues to experiment with block building – creating towers seems to be the plan as she carefully concentrates stacking the blocks on top of one another. These photos highlight how Lily was focused and engaged in her problem solving working out how the blocks can balance on top of each other. Then Lily came to a problem her tower fell down –(I wondered what Lily would do. Would she walk away or continue her exploration?) No this wasn't going to stop Lily and she continued by starting again! This time a bigger tower ‘it's getting taller” Lily reflected and proudly stated! Can you see the technique of how Lily positioned the blocks to go up and across working out how it would balance as she built it?



Wow Lily I was very intrigued with your learning. You demonstrate fantastic perseverance – focused and engaged and you didn't give up even when your tower fell down. You found strategies to guide you in your exploration – problem solving, trial and error, investigation.



Your relationships with other children are responsive and reciprocal demonstrating playfulness, being a good friend, responding to questions and working together. Fantastic collaboration Lily! Tino pai to Mahi – Great Work!

After noticing what you were doing and recognising your learning Lily ,I responded by asking questions to gain information from you, listening by concentrating on what you were exploring and creating and providing encouragement and praise during your experience!

*This experience and the learning dispositions Lily is displaying make connections with our Longford Kindergarten Philosophy – especially with Lily’s demonstration of **wonder/curiosity** ([playfulness, perseverance, exploration, creative thought), **listening** (with and to each other, taking in and learning from ideas), **responsive and reciprocal relationships** (social confidence, playfulness), **culture of inquiry** (investigating, representation of ideas/theories, making discoveries), **collaboration** (working together, good friends).*

Lily during our reflection of your learning with Mandy and Jude we shared our stories of how you enjoy representing your creative thought especially through construction, the language of art especially painting where sometimes your art work tells a story – you concentrate very carefully by adding more detail to make it meaningful and purposeful for you. Again music is an other way that you like to communicate your expression. We have notice that you mix with a range of friends but of course you love to spend time with your special friend Jack! At the moment you have enjoyed being part of making bread (yummy). You love the magic of stories and the imagination and fun that it brings. It’s been fantastic to watch your confidence blossom and finding your voice at Kindy. Another area of learning is your own contribution to sensory experiences – you enjoy the hands on aspect listening with all your senses!!

Megan, Mandy, Claire and Jude would like to continue your learning journey by extending and encouraging your learning disposition of wonder and curiosity . We will support you in the many aspects that we aspire to at Kindy – playfulness, fun, enthusiasm to learn, motivation, perseverance, exploration, creative thought, laughter. Megan, Mandy, Claire and Jude will apply the teaching strategies of co-construction(learning together), demonstrating, facilitating, listening and problem-solving. We wonder where this will take you Lily!!