



## Iriirikapua Hinemoa's Rock

Tena koe Orion, Through the introduction four 6 week term kaupapa tamariki have been immersed in the story of Hinemoa and Tutanekai. The teachings and learnings that the tamariki receive equip them with the local knowledge of some of our most illustrious ancestors here in Te Arawa. Some of our tamariki are more than likely to be direct descendants of Hinemoa and Tutanekai. In the above photos I captured a glimpse of the magic that occurs here at Puna. I was across the room and could hear Orion at the storyboard saying to Te Rerehau "get it, get it" (Putorino the tamariki had been making with Whaea Renee.) All of a sudden I could hear Orion making a flute type noise from his mouth. I looked up and there Orion had Hinemoa (the doll) sitting on Iriirikapua using his own voice as a means of putorino just like the one tamariki have been learning about which helped guide Hinemoa across the cold dark waters of Lake Rotorua. Orion has shown an interest in the story of Hinemoa and Tutanekai even though his shy mannerism and disposition tells another story, he truly is engaged. Children experience environments of learning where they participate in story time and role play; and where there are links to home, family, current events and real life experiences.

Matua Rah - January 2018

