

SOUNDS

June
2012
Nā Sue



Over the last couple of months Jamie, Fleur, Jo, Kellie and I have been watching you explore materials and sounds in our environment. Back in April we noticed that you would bang your hands on whatever surface you were lying on. You especially liked the hard floor Jamie, and you would rub your hands on it—and slap your hands down on it hard! You seemed to be really listening to the noise you made, and understand that it was you making that noise through your own efforts. One day you made sounds using your foot when you moved your foot and it made a castanet close. You purposefully moved your foot in such a way that the castanet continued to open and close, and you listened to the sounds you were making.

What amazing control you are developing in your body Jamie.

It wasn't long before you discovered the musical instruments, and a whole new world of sound opened up. We noticed you particularly enjoyed the shakers with bells. The next exciting development was discovering metal items—what fabulous sounds you could make then!

Of course you knew that you didn't need anything else except yourself to make wonderful sounds too Jamie because you have a voice. Sometimes I wasn't sure if you needed awhi/help as you experimented with your voice in ways that sounded alarming to me!! But the menemene nui/big smile on your face let me know you were just having fun. You seem to enjoy our voices too Jamie, especially when we read aloud. I know you enjoy book reading at home too. 'Peepo' is one of your favourites.

Your interest in making sound has been ongoing Jamie, and you are still continually experimenting with different ways to make patterns of sounds.



Good scientists, like good artists, must let their minds roam playfully or they will not discover new facts, new patterns, new relationships.
(Csikszentmihalyi, 1996, cited in MOE, 2007).



WHAT MIGHT THIS STORY TELL US ABOUT JAMIE'S LEARNING?

Mana Aotūroa—Exploration and Mana Reo—Communication are two of the five strands of the Early Childhood Curriculum document Te Whāriki.

Jamie is exploring his environment through play, as he bangs and shakes different items and creates patterns of sound by slapping his hands or other items on different surfaces. Jamie is developing working theories ('knowledge') about the world in which he lives through this exploration, for example, about the physical properties of the materials he has in/under his hands and how they behave under different circumstances. The extent to which he can explore is increasing daily as he gains increasing confidence in and control of his body.

Jamie is also exploring concepts related to communication, particularly about different ways to be creative and expressive. Jamie is listening to the sometimes surprising, sometimes repetitive patterns of sounds he creates by manipulating materials. He is also creating patterns of sound using his own voice, and listening to the particular patterns of sounds related to book reading (as pictured) as well as the speech and music he hears around him. An ability with patterns is important for language development and ongoing problem solving in every day life, as well as for games and art, and for architecture, engineering, science, and maths! (Barrett, 2003). (Phew!)

Suzi and Liam—what are you are noticing at home about Jamie's exploration of his environment and of communication. I imagine Jamie will really enjoy reading about himself as an infant in years to come. Regards—Sue

As Jamie is beginning to move around a bit more he seems to be discovering different ways to make noise every day! Most things get picked up + are given a good banging! If an object he finds has moving parts Jamie will spend quite a bit of time figuring out which bits move + how they move + if they make noise when they move some much the better.

Jamie is discovering how his voice can make different sounds, mainly at a pretty high volume! Often when I am reading a story to Zoe while Jamie is playing on his own, he will make his way over + try + join in talking. He also enjoys copying sounds with you, especially when he's in his highchair, face to face with you.

We're really enjoying Jamie's 'journey of discovery'. He's very different from Zoe which keeps us on our toes!

Sept 12- You mention Jamie loves to join in with story reading. This is something we are noticing a lot at the moment. If there is a book being read - Jamie is there. Sue.