



"I'm making it!"

From the bottom of the hill, the Ohauti Reserve bank looks imposing, gigantic and a bit intimidating. It hasn't rained in a long time, so the leaves are crunchy and the ground hard as rock. To begin with, Poet is really interested in a game of slide and tumble with Jack as they go up the hill a bit and then slide on their bottoms, bursting with laughter. Suddenly Poet goes all serious as she sets herself a new plan: climbing the entirety of the bank. So she starts struggling, grunting, pushing up and thinking, lots and lots about how to make this plan an achieved reality. After lots of slips, half tumbles and grabbing roots and digging toes in, Poet MAKES IT! It was at the top of the hill while shaking her hands off that Poet paused to express her thoughts: "I am at the top of there. I couldn't make it the last time. I was so trick. Beau can't use the rope. He has to keep trying with his strong, up muscles."

Unpacking the learning for Poet

There were so many uncertainties while Poet climbed this bank! As she said it herself, that was really 'trick' and required using all her 'up muscles' in order to achieve her goal. Very close to the end, when Poet asked for my hand to pull her up, it wasn't because she could not do the



last bit but because she was genuinely tired. Climbing this bank is a real exercise of resilience as it tests our children's abilities to make decisions, stay in the zone and work through any discomforting doubts. In the wise words of Claire Warden, a world renowned researcher in the field of nature education, **"if we remove all the challenges, children lose the feeling of aspiration which is so very important in terms of the drive to move forward in life...."**. Yes, Poet was so, so driven and this ability to stay focused to complete something that is incredibly difficult is a fabulous disposition to have. This bank imitates life quite a bit and the future successful learner is someone who has strong drive to embrace all sorts of challenges. Poet, you have made this experience so memorable.

How can we stretch this learning further

Poet, your resilience is a great source of inspiration for others. I am not sure if you noticed, but quite a few friends attempted this exercise, without completing it, YET. I wonder if you have any tips you could give them so they can experience success the way you did. We all know how important learning from each other is.

Cu afectiune/Arohanui, Cat
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