

Ruby's persistence is stretching her learning into a sewing project.

Ruby had enjoyed some hand sewing, and thought that a great way to add to this creativity, was with some beads. She strongly advocated for Mum to bring some into Emmett Street, and everyone was delighted to have these to add to their mahi. As Ruby and I sat down to do some more sewing, she noticed the little book I made to store the needles in. This intrigued her immensely, and so she decided that she would make one. The first step was the planning. What would it look like? Ruby liked the shape and size of my one, and so we drew it out onto the woollen fabric. Now the mahi begins, as it needed to be cut out. Ruby persevered with this challenge, cutting out both pieces of fabric with our sharp scissors. Fabric is much more difficult to cut than paper, and takes lots of effort. Now, the sewing! I showed Ruby how the stitches went just down the spine of the book so that the pages would turn. This can be quite challenging as the wool has to be pulled all the way through, and the 'up and down' rhythm of stitching takes a bit of practice. Ruby listened carefully to my advice about this, she was very keen for it to work as she planned! It wasn't long before it was time to tie the knot to keep the work from coming undone, and then the next part - I wondered if Ruby would like a decoration on the front? Beads, fabric and stitching all worked in together to create a stunning piece of work. Ruby, I love having a friend to sew with and hope that you will be keen to do more!



Handsewing is an interest has been revisited several times now. It is so satisfying to be in a circle of friends that are enjoying working with materials in this way!

My thoughts on Ruby's learning.

Hand sewing with the tapestry needles is something that Ruby has revisited several times now. She loves to immerse herself in this way of being creative, as she experiments with the wool fabric, scissors and needles. Now that Ruby has had time to do some of her own research about how all these materials can work together, she had the ability to create something that took quite a bit more effort to create. Ruby's ability to persist with the challenges as she invested so much effort into her mahi drove her motivation to finish this project. It took a great deal of focus and concentration to create the book, and I hope that she feels really proud of her efforts.

How can I see this learning continue to grow for Ruby?

Now that Ruby knows a bit more about sewing, I hope that she will want to plan out another project to work on. One of the wonderful things about sewing, is that once you know a few things like how to stitch, there is no limit to the things you can create. We have not yet written out a plan or pattern, or used the measuring tape to get her work the right size. Whatever Ruby chooses to do, her ability to focus and persist with a big challenge will support her learning, and I very much hope to be part of this too.

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