

# He Mauri tangata: The child as an energetic life force



Fresh bark formed mountainous piles in the garden early one morning. Arlo walked in the gate, took one look found a balance bike, and began to zip and zoom up and over each mountain. Renee and I marveled at Arlo's off-roading adventure. "It won't be long... Arlo will be peddling a bike in no time, look at how in tune he is with his body!" I said. "Yes, it won't be long and he will be mountain biking too!" Renee smiled. A few hours later, with the hot rays of Te Ra shining brightly on Arlo's back, he decided to take on the lofty challenge of peddling a bike. Amanda held the seat while Arlo tuned into his taha hinengaro and taha tinana, finding balance and control. After a couple of attempts, he was off and spent the entire afternoon circling around the track.

## **Māramatanga...**

Arlo, looking back at your learning stories layered upon one another they capture how you arrived in this world as an intelligent, spiritual being with a deep desire to tackle challenges and grow your learning. In April I wrote a story for you called 'Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua' This story captured our love for delighting in the adventurous tales of Maui. I wondered if through sharing this ritual together we would together draw from the mauri and mātauranga of Maui and if you might find inspiration in this learning hero.





As I watched you today, it seems that this could be true. Just like Maui mohio, who was resourceful, resilient, and determined when he took on the challenge of slowing the sun, Arlo you took on the challenge of riding a bike knowing that this goal could be conquered in the same way that Maui slowed the sun, with grit and perseverance. Arlo, these ways of being empower you to problem solve, and grow your mātauranga. Arlo, there is an ancient whakatauki that I think perfectly describes your way of being, which is "E whiwhi ai koe i ngā hua o te moana me māku koe." In order to obtain the fruits of the ocean, you need to get wet. When you set your sights on a learning goal Arlo, you work with confidence, eagerness, tenacity and resilience to grow your mātauranga.

Dear Arlo, your ways of being and learning are powerful and awe-inspiring. Your energetic life force (mauri), paired with your mana are inseparable forces that drive your learning forward. **As we look towards your future learning,** we will all continue to nurture and enhance your mana, champion your plans and celebrate each learning success as you continue to drive your learning forward in the direction that you choose.

Arlo, seeing that the stories of Maui have been such a source of delight and inspiration, I wonder if you may like to explore some more pūrākau... Ngāti Ranginui, our mana whenua of this land has gifted us with some of their special pūrākau. I wonder if next time we are out at the farm while we are nourishing our tinana with kai you might like to hear some of their stories...

Arohanui,  
Molly

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