

Thea's balanced mauri ora leads her explorations.

As much as Thea loves to join in with her beloved brother Des and his play, she also loves to immerse herself in her own explorations. Sand and water are endlessly fascinating, as they change shapes and consistency, and Thea immerses herself completely in these investigations.

My thoughts on what Thea is learning in these moments?

Our Mauri ora is our life essence, a sense of wellbeing and feeling contented, relaxed and completely open to learning. As I observed Thea, I felt like her mauri ora was strong. She pondered and experimented, making observations and asking herself questions as she played. When Thea is in this state of mauri ora, her brain is relaxed and open to so much learning. In this moment, she was a scientist. She asked herself questions, and experimented with the

relationship between the materials in front of her. This is how scientists work, with a base of existing knowledge, and theories to incorporate into this way of knowing. Intelligence grows in ways like this, as she wonders, ponders and experiments. With Thea's Mauri ora in balance, her mind is open to learning. ***This is how I see Thea's learning continue to grow***, with a strong Mauri ora that leads her into explorations. We will make sure that she has the space, time and materials to deeply immerse herself into being able to make discoveries that interest her. The sandpit is a favourite place for Des, and so I know that we will see her back here, either with or without his comforting presence. As we chat with Thea during her play, we can help add in the language to help her articulate her plans, and what resources she may want to extend her explorations. She has a passion for language, just like Des and so I think that expressing her thoughts will be interesting to her.

It is so wonderful to have her back here playing, and I look forward to being her assistant on her next 'work assignment'.

Aroha nui, Tanya
February 2023



