

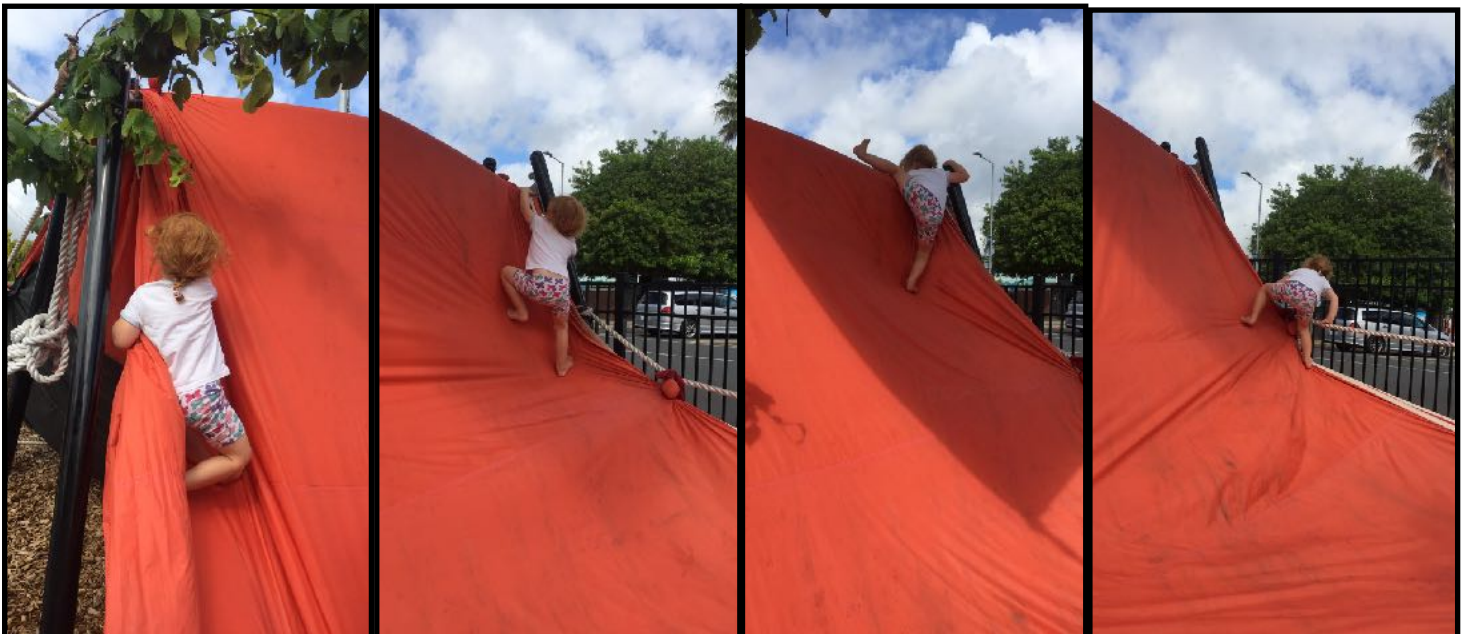
Tenacity gets Willow to the top!

An old spinnaker had been gifted to us, which was big enough to go over the swing set, and make a zoom slide. How do you get up?, was a question on everyone's mind. With quite some tenacity and determination is the answer, and Willow was keen to take on this challenge! The photos tell the story of what that looked like - ascent after ascent with every part of Willow's body working hard, from her fingers, right down to her toes. Once at the top, Willow didn't pause - this was about the challenge and pushing her body to it's limits, not the view at the top! What a tenacious learner she is!



My thoughts on Willow's learning as she dug in her toes!

Grit and determination are dispositions that take learning to the edge of your comfort zone. They come into play in moments like these, where you have to really decide that you want to take on a challenge. This is valued learning, because challenge comes in our lives in so many different forms. Currently, Willow is thinking about ways to use her body and it is this determination to keep going, despite the difficulties, that is helping her to achieve her goals. The confidence that grows from being successful in moments like this settles in our heart and mind. It grows our mana, as we know that we are someone that can do extraordinary things.



This sense of being capable continues to grow ever upwards, as each achievement and success builds upon the last.

This is how I see Willow's learning growing, as her tenacity drives her to push through any possible doubts about her ability to take on magnificent challenges.

Sadly the zoom slide didn't last, but the teachers here are always thinking about how to keep the garden challenging. I feel certain that Willow will be there to try out the next challenge, but her mana will find its way to the surface even without a lofty physical challenge. Many things we encounter throughout the day take considerable effort and tenacity, and Willow will find plenty of moments as she plays to draw from this quality.

Another aspect of this play that was so heartwarming to see, was Willow's graciousness. Arlo had watched Willow climb up over and over, and kept trying himself. Willow kindly offered some advice; "It's a bit easier on this side." As they moved over to the other side. "Hold on, keep holding on." Willow advised Arlo. "Hold onto those things ... OK? It's really not easy." Arlo was encouraged by Willow's advice, and kept trying. This was not the day to make it over the top for Arlo, but Willow remained supportive and kind. Tamariki learn how to interact in the world from the role models that they spend their time with. Nicole and Euan, you are raising two very kind and encouraging little people that work together to build each other's mana. They are often seen together, supporting each other. When the next challenge comes along, I wonder if it will be Willow that is the leader again, using grit and determination to show the way upwards?

Arohanui, Tanya

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