

# Zara cloaks her community in aroha and manaaki



Zara, my dear friend, with aroha and manaaki you took Bella under your wing today with such gentleness and care. Zara, you listened so deeply to Bella. With every kind touch, gesture, and question, you nurtured her mana and consequently her learning.

## My thoughts on this moment filled with aroha and manaaki...

From the very beginning Zara, you have been wrapped in the pōkeka of your whānau embrace and enveloped in a cloak of aroha, and empathy. This pōkeka has been carefully woven to take the shape of you as you learn and grow, providing you with warmth, comfort, and security. Because of this, aroha and manaakitanga are now deeply engrained within your wairua. Previous learning stories layered upon one another build an image of yourself as an incredibly competent learner who is deeply connected to her whānau and learning community. Today as I watched this moment, a whakatauki came to mind. That is, "Aroha mai, aroha atu", meaning love received, love returned. This whakatauki highlights how your mana has been tuku, (nurtured) and now that it is so incredibly strong and secure you are empowered to nurture the mana of others. Today this looked like making sure one of our youngest members of her community felt seen, heard, and understood.

**Zara, as we all look toward your learning future,** another whakatauki comes to mind, that is, "poipoia te kākano kia puawai, nurture the seed and it will blossom." Zara, we all will continue to envelop you in a cloak of aroha, and manaaki, ensuring that the pōkeka is determined and shaped by you so that you are able to awaken your potential to flow freely, in any direction that you choose. Zara as you continue to share your aroha and manaakitanga with your community I can see that it will bind us together and nurture one another's mana and consequently our learning. Tanya and Melissa might need to tap into your kete full of wisdom at the farm, as it is moments like this that will bind your farm group together and empower you to go on even wilder adventures.

Arohanui,  
Molly

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