

Pihikete's learning



Learning story

We were watering the plants the children had planted, and Pihikete started to share some of his views of the world. He talked to us about Papatūānuku and told us how everything grows from her. He then talked about Ranginui and how he cries and waters the plants. He also talked about the whakapapa of the creation story.

What learning is going on here?

What a wealth of knowledge Pihikete brings to the kindergarten about his own culture. He is so open about sharing his ideas and expressing

his point of view – I could listen to him all day. Pihikete demonstrates such strong confidence, not only in his culture but also in himself. I feel it is a real privilege to be a part of Pihikete's world.

E te Whaea

He mihi tino mahana tēnei ki a koe me tō tama Pihikete.

Tino harikoa taku ngākau ki te whakarongo ki tō tama e kōrero ana mō Papatūānuku.

He tama toa tēnei ki te mau ki tana reo me ōna tikanga.

What's happening here?

The teacher writes to Pihikete's mother (in the section "E te Whaea"), recording an observation and commenting on Pihikete's knowledge.

What aspects of bicultural assessments does this exemplify?

The teacher writes part of the assessment in te reo Māori. She refers to Pihikete's identity as Māori (his "strong confidence, not only in his culture but also in himself") and the knowledge he brings. She includes a comment to the whānau that indicates respect for te reo me ōna tikanga. This use of te reo Māori in the assessment portfolio is an indication of respect for and valuing of the language.

How might this assessment contribute to bicultural practice here?

Pihikete spontaneously makes links between the nurturing of plants and Papatūānuku. Revisiting this story with Pihikete and other children will highlight a number of values here: te reo Māori, tikanga Māori (for example, Papatūānuku and Ranginui), and children's contributions.

What might this tell us about informal noticing, recognising, and responding in this place?

The teacher who wrote this assessment is a fluent Māori speaker: te reo Māori is not just written down in the stories of children's activities; it is part of the life of the centre, inviting whānau to participate in the curriculum.