



“Language skills develop as children learn to use their voice to impart meaning and portray character”

Te Whariki



Exploring Drama whakatewhatewha whakaataata

By Zoe Powell

Drama seems to be encasing TLC downstairs at the moment. From dinosaur shows to royal weddings, I have seen this interest creep into many facets of the children’s play. Observing these learning experiences unfold, it is evident how beneficial they are for social development. Creating a show or dramatic experience takes a lot of skill and perseverance. Such strategies as problem solving, collaboration, communication and negotiation are seen as these children plan, practice and execute their symbolic, dramatic and role play.

Not only is there vast literacy concepts being gained as they make sense of their worlds, these children show how confident and competent they are. They also show how comfortable they feel here at TLC when they can freely express themselves through their play.

As teachers, we strive to accommodate each and every interest and thankfully are invited to join in occasionally and be carried away on what ever journey is being led at that moment. Lately, I have been able to be a guest at the royal wedding of Prince William and Princess Kate, escape to the world of dinosaur land and even have tea and cakes with lions and cats.

Transforming our world from reality into fantasy creates an opportunity to experience stories in a new and exciting way. We can move from the ‘adult’ perspective into the idyllic child imagination and who wouldn’t want to experience having tea and cake with lions?

Often I hear conversations or ‘lines’ in shows that reflect how these children are making sense of the world around them by re-enacting what they have heard or seen. These quotes can create much laughter as children divulge information about how Dad watched TV all day and didn’t get off the couch or imitations of Mum on the phone talking to her best girlfriend...these I will leave up to your imagination...

Te Whariki explains how “young children are using their imaginations to explore their own and others’ identities”, therefore, lets stop and slow down, observe and appreciate these truly magic dramatic experiences our children are creating.

I cannot wait to see where these TLC artists take me next...