

# Education Co-ordinator

Teachers are Learners

I fear there is a terrible misnomer.

Teachers are those that teach

Students are those that learn.

Hopefully, as Kinma families you know this to be impossible. No sound teacher can be anything but an infinite learning stream, ever wondering, ever curious, ever playful about those with whom they learn, with stuff and ideas.

For each year I have the privilege of learning with and from children, I know more deeply that what any child will ever learn from me will be paltry when compared to what I learn from each and every child. My two boys Benni and Maxi, remain my greatest teachers, sitting, fully convinced of their knowing, alongside, Krishnamurti, Hesse, Chodron, Gatto and compadres, equally fully convinced of their unknowings.

Last week, Kinma staff had a rare learning opportunity. Margaret Giroux, a Science consultant from New Zealand, with experience in teaching in alternative learning settings, spent 5 days in and among children and staff, working and playing alongside them to explore the nature of science and what, how and why it is relevant to us as citizens in the world. You may have heard your children refer to Margaret as the Science lady, the Science professor or that lady who asked soooooo many questions!

In the past we have had artist in residence. This was a little like scientist in residence.

We learnt that Science involves decision making; deep and important decision making, the sort that not only affects my stomach at tea time but which can have reverberating effects on my life. What I notice counts. What I don't counts too. What I do with what I notice and what I can't do with that which I do not, can have powerful effects on everything I do all day long. What I say, how I behave, how I think.

Surely then, the art of noticing and the science of making claims about my noticing are vital tools. How to build evidence around my claims form the basis for critical thinking. And where does this all start? The questions we ask ourselves... Inside our heads before words even surface. From where come the questions? From daily life experiences. The spaces created by teachers to varying degrees invite questioning. Margaret found that at Kinma we naturally set up inquiry style spaces. She was able to encourage us to hone in on the language used to play alongside the children in a variety of ways. Often, the less the materials, the better.

She 'Noticed' our ways and then set up a Kinma specific professional development learning program to explore all the above elements. The photographs you see are Kinma teachers at play, at hard work; noticing, claiming and building evidence. Your children will be the wiser following our tremendous learning.

Thank you Margaret...we are abuzz with questions and uncertainties. How comforting to be reassured that indeed only out of discomfort and uncertainty, can real rich learnings grow. We try to be as patient with ourselves as we are with your children.

Having Kay join us on the Saturday was a treat. Juli G and Kay are looking at fusing the work into the preschool in expert Kinmaesque fashion.

Hooray to our staff's wonder, curiosity and playful learning spirits.





juli g

