

Te hautū i te awa whiria o ako Supporting pathways to lifelong learning for children in English-medium schools

Resources and research by
CORE
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Tātai Aho Rau

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Foundation

Explore the tuakana-teina approach

Kerryn Archer, Teacher, Kaiapoi North School

We started the research project by thinking about our 5 year olds, and thinking about what we could do to help build further connections.

Chloe and Sophie, students at Kaiapoi North School

Chloe

Sometimes, sometimes we play on the playground. Sometimes, sometimes we play on the monkey bars.

Sophie

What did we do last week in the classroom?

Chloe

We drew, it was like a headband with paper. Yeah, I drew and I drew like something. Right. I drew. I think I drew a heart or something.

Sophie

Yeah, you drew a heart. And a couple of weeks ago, you drew me and you, aye. And you gave that picture to me. Yeah.

Image of Chloe's picture

Chloe

I was feeling a little bit shy. She played with me. When I came to school I was shy. And Sophie helped me feel better.

Stacy Kennedy, Whānau, Kaiapoi North School

For my child, Tyler, he did his visits in December, yeah the beginning of December, and didn't start till the February. So the buddy system gave him a connection to school to talk about over that period, where there was the school holiday break. So it gave him somebody to talk about, somebody that I could talk to him about that was a concrete thing with school. He gets a bit of anxiety and worry. So it was like, oh, you can play with Khan and what do you think Khan might come and do with you?

Kaiapoi North School students

I enjoy being able to play with someone new and like seeing what kind of friends my buddy makes.

Yeah, we like coming. It's nice to see new kids every day and see them starting to know Kaiapoi North school and getting to know more friends. And it's just lovely to see them all the time.

I like just hanging out with different people every day and like helping them around the classroom and getting to know that they know Kaiapoi North school.

I like hanging out with them. Eating with them at lunchtime and like playing tag with them.

She's not shy anymore. And she starts listening. Because when I started to know her, she'd just clinged on to her mum. But now when I come into school, she gives me a hug. And then we go off, and then we have some fun.

I get on well with my buddies, and yeah, he does races and I come and check in to make sure he's okay. And he's always having fun.

I think the best part is they make friends when we check on them every day to see if they're okay.

Amber Stone, Whānau, Kaiapoi North School

So Bonnie's buddy system. The support from her buddy was excellent. And it was also a really positive in the mornings to say, you know, Isla will be there to support you, Isla will be there to show you what you need, Isla will be there to guide you when you need that guidance. And that also gives Isla some responsibility. It's giving her a different sort of pathway of growing and Bonnie was like, maybe I could be a buddy one day. So there was that real positive influence from Isla in many different ways. So it was a blessing for me with Bonnie's transition to school.

Stacy Kennedy, Whānau, Kaiapoi North School

For me, I think having a buddy really helped Tyler know somebody that he could see at school, it gave him something that he could predict. It reassured me at the same time, and I could see him kind of just relax and go, Oh, I can, you know, I can go find Khan.

Kaiapoi North School students

My buddy, whenever his mom was leaving, he would grab onto her and say no, don't leave me. I just have to say, well, she has to leave to go to work. Now he's made friends, well, heaps of friends and he's hanging out with them.

Same with my buddy. Like Jonno, he didn't really want to stay the first few days. Then he made some friends and stayed at school and his mum could actually leave and do her job.

Jonathan and Jake, Students, Kaiapoi North School

Jake

I want to play on the playground.

Jonathan

Oh, I felt excited, like to meet Jake more and what his hobbies are and what he likes doing. So I like hanging out with Jake. Oh yeah, he was just a bit nervous. Like, every now and again. Once I was there, he was getting used to it. I said, Oh Mum has to go to work and I'll stay here and help you with your learning and like, keep you calm.

End slide

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