

## Makarewa Play Centre - Exploring Our World

This term we have been looking at our world and some of the bugs and insects that live in it and the different trees and plants there are and so today we headed off to the wonderful Southland Community Nursery. Chris and Bronwyn met us at the carpark and soon we were off on our adventure. After dropping



bags at the shed, Chris handed out a scavenger hunt for us to do on our bush walk – we were to use our senses, sight, smell, hearing and touch, but not taste as we didn't know if all the plants were safe for us to put in our mouths. Soon, we were off, first stop the pond. We were all eager to see what lived



there – some ducks! We carried on our walk in single file and Chris stopped to show us different plants on the way. There were so many different leaves – different shapes, sizes, colours and smells. There were some really tall trees and we had to stretch our necks to see



the top of them! Listen what's that? It's a tui singing a beautiful song.

Flynn & Benjamin had a wee rest in the camouflaged hut while some of the other children peered out the walls to see what they could see outside. One of the things on our scavenger hunt was to find something that fits inside something else – seeds! Another was to find something made by an insect....Bronwyn spotted it – an old spider web sac. It was great fun on the bush walk, listening to



the birds and what else makes noise?? A cabbage trees' dried up leaves hanging down! Chris showed us a special leaf and when we crunched it up it smelt just like a lemon!

After our bush walk and learning about the different leaves and doing our scavenger hunt it was time for some kai before we kept learning more things about our world.

Soon, we had had a rest and now

it was on to the tunnel. It was exciting opening the doors to see what surprise was hidden behind. We found out that possums sometimes eat baby birds and some birds fly to the top of New Zealand for winter and they come back again in the summer – wow, that's a long way!





Chris asked the children if they would like to see the worm farm – yes please! We have put some new worms in our farm this term and learnt how we can find a worm's head! Chris pulled back the old piece of carpet and moved some of the food and WOW there were so many worms!! Benjamin, Oskar and Bailey loved



seeing the worms up close and they could remember how to



find the worm's head – the end closest to the fat piece in its body – ka pai guys! Before heading back to the shed we had a quick look at the chickens – 3 eggs – and Donna the duck came to say hi. Bailey and Hunter wanted to say hi to Donna, but she was a bit too fast for them and Maddie thought it was the best thing

she had seen all morning ☺

It got a bit chilly and so we headed back to the shed for leaf Bingo. It was fun choosing a leaf and trying to match its colour to one of the sheets or finding it in a picture – Dean did a great job matching up colours and kept going back for more and more!

The children used their problem solving skills to figure out how to make a giant weta puzzle and Bailey displayed a lot of patience and concentration as she worked quietly on a big butterfly puzzle, with Ben helping her complete it.

Whew, what a big, busy and fun morning we had. It was pretty tiring and so Bronwyn helped us sing a song and then we thanked her and Chris for our wonderful morning, learning about our world. We can't wait to visit again one day!



(By

Bronwyn 6.11.15)



#### Learning Happening:

Wellbeing: The children were involved in what they were doing & felt safe to explore.

Contribution: The children took turns touching & looking at objects.

Communication: There was lots of adult/child and child/child communication. The elder tamariki asked questions & everyone

followed directions.

Exploration: Today was about exploring our natural world and the tamariki used their senses while showing respect for nature & being careful with the plant & insect/animal life. The questions asked were to find out more about the world & each child displayed a different level of interest in the nature around them.