

# Finn's dragonfly

May

I approach you Finn as you are working at the art table; you are deep in thought and using a lot of concentration while you work. I wait quietly for a bit and then ask,

“What are you doing there, Finn?”

“A dragonfly.”



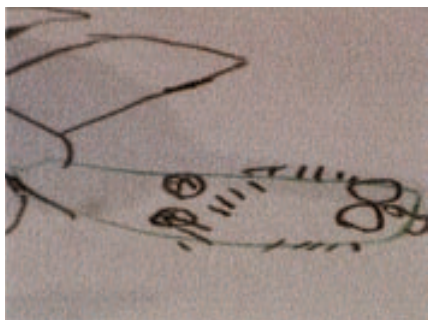
Finn, you have such attention to detail and you take time to study the book, which is open at the end of the table, before you go back to your drawing. I ask you if you have ever seen a dragonfly and you tell me, “At my friend Olivia’s, she lives away way in Tauranga. She always has a little dragonfly buzzing around her pool.”

You go back to your drawing and your concentration on this artwork is amazing.

“They are pretty special aren’t they – dragonflies?” I say.

“Yes,” you say after some thinking.

You continue to draw and then you talk to me about the green thing on your page and how you were going to draw a fish and then you decided to do a dragonfly.



I ask you if it is hard to draw and you say, “Yes, I have to concentrate,” and I can see you concentrating on your artwork.

I tell you that you are an artist and you say to me, “I do like doing art.”

When I ask you why, you tell me, “I like doing it for my mum and dad. I think it is pretty hard to do in noise, once I did it in the quiet.”

“Is it easier in the quiet?” I ask.

“Yep,” you say.

You continue with your drawing and then move on to outlining your dragonfly with PVA glue.

Finn, I can tell from your face that you are not as happy with this part of your artwork as you were with the pencil drawing. Your face is so expressive that it is hard to hide disappointment. I tell you that I think it looks great and that we can still recognise your name, but I don’t think you are entirely convinced.



Finn, as I have said before, you have the ability to persevere with tasks that you set for yourself until they are completed. This learning story reminds me of two that I have written for you previously: the one about the woolly jumper that you made – do you remember how long it took you to make that piece of artwork? And more recently you were very interested in drawing a map to show the way to the zoo. I noticed then your technique of looking closely at the map and then drawing a bit and then having another look at the map on the wall. This is exactly what you were doing today when you were drawing your dragonfly. I like being able to have conversations with you Finn. I really enjoy hearing your thoughts on different things and I especially like that you are able to answer my questions: “Is it hard to do?” and “What do you like about art?” and so on. You are so right that it is hard to do artwork when it is noisy, and today was a very noisy day inside the kindergarten! I think you did really well. And I do think you are an artist.

Finn, you tried so hard not to get that sleeve of yours in the PVA glue and when I looked at the video (don't forget to have a look at this yourself), it wasn't until the very end that you got your sleeve in that glue!

This is a three-step process and you have completed two of the steps. When your artwork is dry you might like to do the next step and paint different coloured dye over your drawing.

Jo

### **What's happening here?**

As Finn draws dragonflies, his teacher discusses his drawings with him.

### **What does this assessment tell us about the learning (using a Well-being/Mana Atua lens)?**

This is about a child's deep involvement in a project. The teacher comments that Finn uses a lot of “concentration” while he works, which is confirmed when she asks him if it is hard to draw and he acknowledges, “Yes, I have to concentrate.”

### **How might this documented assessment contribute to Well-being/Mana Atua?**

The teacher documents some of the features of Finn's deep involvement: attention to detail, taking time to study the book, and Finn's statement that for him it is easier to draw while

being “in the quiet”. The teacher also refers back to earlier written stories to remind Finn of how long it took to make some of his previous pieces of art and offers Finn the encouraging reminder that this is a “three-step” process and he has now completed two of the three steps.

### **What other strands of Te Whāriki are exemplified here?**

Persistence or perseverance is a disposition associated with the Exploration/Mana Aotūroa strand.