

# Pōwhiri for the new principal

11 December

A Learning Story	
belonging mana whenua	The centre was delighted by the invitation to attend the pōwhiri for the new principal.
well-being mana atua	Significantly we sat at the front, reflecting that we are valued.  The kaupapa of the centre – to encourage respect and understanding of Māoritanga – was evident in our children who sat quietly, stood to waiata when required and remained respectful throughout the hour-long pōwhiri.
exploration mana aotūroa	Two children who were tired simply leaned against adults and fell asleep – no grizzling, no testiness.
communication mana reo	The kaumātua for the tāngata whenua and the kaumātua for the manuhiri acknowledged the children as taonga of the college.
contribution mana tangata	As usual our children maintained the wairua of the occasion through their exemplary behaviour.  The essence of the kaupapa and kawa were retained.

Short-term review
The children’s attitudes are inspiring. May they be lifelong.
What next?
Strengthen our link to Te Puru. Continue to foster involvement in official college occasions. Forge a reciprocally valuable relationship with the new principal.

## What’s happening here?

This early childhood centre is located on the site of a secondary school. In this example of a group story for the children’s portfolios, “The centre was delighted by the invitation to attend the pōwhiri for the new principal.”

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

This documentation records reciprocal and responsive relationships and attitudes of respect and esteem. The children’s respectful behaviour during the pōwhiri is described and is reciprocated by the kaumātua’s explaining that the children are valued as “taonga” of the college, further cementing the children’s self-esteem and sense of respect. The teacher expresses the desire that the attitudes and respect exemplified here be “lifelong” for the children.

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

This event is documented for the children, the families, and the whānau. The documentation

records that the childcare centre’s community was seated at the front, “reflecting that we are valued”. In the Short-term review, the teacher records that the children’s attitudes are “inspiring” and, in the learning story, she concludes that “As usual our children maintained the wairua of the occasion through their exemplary behaviour.” The assessment clearly defines the attributes of this “exemplary behaviour”: sitting quietly, standing to waiata when required, remaining respectful for the whole pōwhiri, and not grizzling or showing “testiness”.

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

This exemplar illustrates the close connections between the Well-being/Mana Atua and Belonging/Mana Whenua strands – the children are valued as taonga in this place. Forward planning indicates that the childcare centre community will find ways to forge a reciprocally valuable relationship with the new principal, contributing to the centre’s belonging to a wider educational community that includes the college.