



## Room Three

### Head Teacher – Debbie

Room Three have had a very exciting time learning about the celebrations of Matariki. We have read lots of stories about Matariki, such as The Seven Kites, Little Kiwi's Matariki and lots of other Maori myths and legends. We have enjoyed singing and dancing - one of their favourites is doing the poi dance. And lots of art as we immersed ourselves in the language and culture. Te Reo Maori is a big focus and we will continue to strengthen the children's knowledge.

We also followed and learnt all about the Olympic games, including talking about the different countries that participated, and about the various sports.

Independent play is our current focus in the Centre.

#### **Importance of Independent play:**

##### **Creativity:**

Solo play means they need to come up with all the ideas themselves! This may be a challenge at first, but one they can really have fun with.

##### **Problem-solving:**

With no one else to help them problem-solve, they'll come up with great solutions all on their own.

##### **Learning what they're good at:**

An important part of knowing who we are is knowing what we're good at, such as sports, or cooking, or writing. We often discover these skills when we're doing them independently, and play can be the starting point.

##### **Confidence:**

By being able to solve problems on their own and develop a sense of mastery and control, children will gain confidence. They will feel like they are in charge, without judgement or comparison.

##### **Self-regulation:**

Being able to play alone is a great way to build a foundation to keep oneself calm and engaged, without assistance from others. This can also help to build patience, emotional control, and overall self-reliance, which helps with everyday tasks like waiting your turn in line, or calming down for sleep/rest-time.

*Debbie,*

