

COUNTRY KIDS SNAPSHOTS OF LEARNING -TERM 4 2025

Pikopiko: Volcano Fun!

Our under 2's had an exciting introduction to the wonders of nature this week with a hands-on volcano activity! Using a simple, safe setup, we created our very own erupting volcano. The children were fascinated by the bubbling lava effect, watching closely as it fizzed and flowed.

This sensory experience sparked curiosity, encouraged language development, and gave them a fun, age-appropriate way to explore natural phenomena.

It was a fantastic way to introduce early science concepts through play!



*"The art of teaching is the art of
assisting discovery."*
- MARK VAN DOREN

Ngā whetū: Making and Flying Kites



Our Spring weather at Country Kids can be quite unpredictable! On this particular day, it was very windy, so Kaiako Daile thought she'd help the tamariki make some kites! We used cardboard, string and the children coloured in their kites. Once they were ready, we went outside to test them in the hau (wind). There was so much laughter and excitement as tamariki ran across the grass, experimenting with how fast or high they needed to go to make their kites fly.

Through this experience, tamariki explored ideas around pūtaiao (science) and taiao (the natural world) — discovering how the hau moves and affects their creations.

This joyful provocation nurtured curiosity, physical confidence, and a strong sense of whanaungatanga (connection and belonging) as tamariki worked and played together.



"If we could all see the world through the eyes of a child, we would see the magic in everything."

— Akiane Kramarik



Just 4 Kids: Obstacle course fun!

Today we set up an obstacle course outside, and our tamariki were eager to join in! Before long, the children began sharing their own ideas — adding ropes, and hoops to make the course trickier and more fun. The next step for some of our 4 year old boys, was to create a competition. They decided they needed to have a huge run up and then leapt over the foam shapes, seeing who you get the furthest.

Through this activity, tamariki showed mana motuhake (independence) and mahi tahi (teamwork) as they problem-solved and created together.

They developed their nekehanga tinana (physical skills), confidence, and sense of belonging as they worked collaboratively to design and test their own challenges.



"PLAY IS OUR BRAINS' FAVOURITE WAY OF LEARNING."

- Diane Ackerman