

Learning through Play



What is it?

The term 'Play' is used to describe the natural human instinct to explore; take risks; manipulate; follow an urge, passion or interest; to problem solve; build resilience and relationships; to make mistakes and to encourage communication with others.

Play is a child's natural way of practising observed skills or activities; imagining outcomes or events, improving and refining developmental skills, and developing competencies for life.

What do we believe?

At Taumata School we believe that our tamariki learn best through play, and it aligns with our value for experiential learning opportunities. Play provides authentic opportunities to explore the world, encourages creativity, communication and innovation and builds our learning principle of grit.

Learning through play is different to 'free play'. It involves noticing and providing opportunities for students to explore their urges through provocations. The learning coach then uses their in-depth knowledge of the curriculum to delve deeper into what learning is taking place.

What about Reading Writing and Maths?

Whilst we value the role of play in learning we also recognise the need to develop foundation skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

Whilst students are engaged in play, learning coaches will provide explicit workshops to support Reading, Writing and Maths.

