

Learning Conversations 2023 - *Success for All*

What is a learning conversation?

A learning conversation is when your child talks to you about their learning. They will:

- Say what they are learning
- Show you some learning they are proud of
- Tell you about the successes they have had in their learning
- Let you know something they want to do to get better in a specific area of learning

Why are learning conversations important?

When your child is able to articulate what they are learning and how they are going in their learning, they are more able to identify what they need to do next to progress their learning. It helps them become empowered learners – learners who can take action and make a difference to their own learning.

This is part of our vision of *Nurturing ACTIVE learners*.

This process of empowering students to manage their own learning not only raises achievement, it also increases a learner's motivation, self-esteem and self-efficacy (belief in one-self as a learner).

As a parent, you can be an active contributor to your child's empowerment and self-efficacy by attending the learning conversation. You will also be demonstrating that you value your child and their learning.



What do I need to do now?

- Book a time to come to school with your child. You can book online or by phoning the office.
- Make one booking for each child. You can book two children in two separate Communities during the same time slot because each booking time is 45 minutes long. (The times do not have to be strictly adhered to. See more about this below.)
- It is best to arrange childcare for your youngest preschoolers so you can devote your attention to one of your children at a time. This shows you value what they are saying above all else.

What happens at a learning conversation?

- Your child will introduce you to their guardian teacher and together, they will make you feel welcome in the learning community.
- Your child will begin showing you their learning. They will do most of the talking and you will do the listening. Help them out by using one of the 'Prompt Cards for Parents' if they get stuck. We want them to be successful.
- Show your appreciation for the effort they have put into their learning and compliment them where you see they have made small steps of progress.



- Be aware that other learners and their whanau will be in the room at the same time. They will be focused on their own child, as you will be on yours. There may be three or four other families all engrossed in the successes of their own child.
- If you have other school-aged children with you, remind them this special time is for just one child at a time, and they will all have their turn. School-aged children who understand this are welcome to accompany you at the learning conversation. (Preschoolers find this tricky, so please make alternative arrangements.)
- Because each booking time is 45 minutes in duration, you can spend as little or as much time in the Community with your child as you wish. You finish when your child has finished sharing their learning.
- You will have the flexibility to move on to your next child's learning conversation slightly earlier or slightly later than their scheduled time. You do not have to wait for the exact time and no bells will ring.

Important Things to Remember

- Your child will lead the learning conversation so your child **must** come with you.
- Your child puts a lot of effort into their learning. If you cannot attend, please arrange for another significant adult in your child's life to come to the learning conversation.
- Even if you regularly visit your child's Community to look at their learning, this is an important occasion when all children share their learning successes with their whanau. Your attendance will demonstrate that you really value their efforts and that their progress and successes are important to you.
- Make childcare arrangements for any preschoolers in your whanau. It would be unfair to all of the people in the learning community to have any distractions while each learner is sharing their learning.
- The conversation is about learning, **not** behaviour or social issues. If you or the teacher have concerns in these areas, you will need to make a separate time to discuss them, though it is likely that you and the teacher have already had that conversation.
- The times are a guide only. They are provided for bookings to help spread the number of people in the community at any one time. It is better if there are not too many families in the community all at once. You do not have to keep strictly to the time you have booked.