Findings on Emergent Bilinguals in a Digital World

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Each child’s interacting linguistic landscapes

Design intentionally to
• improve flow of languages
• legitimise children’s languages & cultures
• share aspirations & strategies

1 minute view of ECE landscapes & web site
Emergent bilingual children

Aotearoa New Zealand is linguistically “super diverse” & Māori language threatened (RSNZ 2013; Census, 2013)

Children growing up with more than one language have linguistic repertoires straddling languages (Cunningham & King 2017)

Lifelong wellbeing & education
Māori language revitalisation

Lost in landscapes dominated by English
Evidence has English bias
Method / Tukanga / Auala e Su'esu'e ai

- Research co-constructing effective multilingual landscapes for children
- Ethnographic cases within Māori Braided Rivers framework
- 8 early childhood centres + 5 primary schools + library + community >= 14 case studies
- Workshops validate & upscale
- Web includes ‘Pop up’ workshops
- Community engagement ↔ Jan Dobson You Matter To Us consortium
The digital world is

- minimized in early childhood landscapes
- a communication channel
- used to inform parents & communities
- managed in homes with siblings
- complex – a hunger for guidance

Practice in 2016 increased in 2017
Policy Guidance

- Curriculum responses
  - ECE Te Whāriki + DT/HM curricula
- Co-construct & gift to whole world
- Languages Policy Guidance Note for leaders

“I have passed your guidance note onto Ministry officials to refer to as part of the Ministry's wider work on language policy development.”

Hon Kelvin Davis
MP for Te Tai Tokerau
Minister for Crown/Māori Relations
Minister of Corrections
Minister of Tourism
Associate Minister of Education
“A child’s life is like
a mat where
everyone weaves
a strand.”
References / Tohutoro
O Mau Fa'atatau


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