

# Te hautū i te awa whiria o ako

## Supporting pathways to lifelong learning for children in English-medium schools

Resources and research by

**CORE**  
EDUCATION  
Tātai Aho Rau

In partnership with

 **Rātā**  
Foundation

### Understand the power of teacher inquiry

#### **Julia Hinman, Teacher, Ilam School**

I think the biggest thing that I've learnt over the project has been about research and data in itself and the fact that the data can be as simple as your observations and collecting pictures, and looking at themes.

#### *Images of children in classrooms*

I think, overall, it's been a real eye opener, because I'm not somebody who I would have ever thought would have been doing research or collecting data in that kind of way. And I didn't think I had much to bring. So that now, that just observing the children, you're unpacking it in your head as well and thinking well what's it showing me? How can I make changes in my classroom to value that or to enhance that or work towards deeper goals?

#### **Nicola Gaskell, Teacher, Kaiapoi Borough School**

So the reason that we chose to start with the enrollment pack, I guess, because we were new to research, we wanted to start with something that was concrete and involved all the stakeholders so that we could start using some research techniques like having focus groups with the whānau, involving the children, to see what they knew about the enrollment pack. And if they thought there should be any changes. So we took some of these learnings to our kāhui ako. At the meetings, it was very clear that lots of the schools were facing similar challenges to us when the children were transitioning. And going forward, we hope that through those connections and continuing to build the shared understanding, we can do further work with our parent community, and help build the skills that children need to transition to school.

**Amy Sugrue, Teacher, Ilam School**

The skills that we learnt from this inquiry we will continue to carry through and continue inquiries. I don't think our inquiry really ever stopped. And that was a big realisation for us as a team that it was always happening, and then realising that these mini projects, inquiries, are benefiting our children and the skills that we gained from that were really, really beneficial.

**End slide**

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