

29th May 2026

Session Overview

Creativity, Connection & Being Present

After a couple of sessions focused on larger creative projects, this week we intentionally slowed the rhythm and returned to a more child-led, exploratory Balance & Bloom experience, filled with playful provocations, creativity, movement, and connection.

We began together in our welcome circle with Sean on guitar, reconnecting through our familiar songs before learning a new problem-solving song:

“Is the problem big or is it small? Can it be fixed soon or not at all?”

Together, we practised actions to accompany the song and talked about how we can support one another through big feelings and challenges – learning ways to problem-solve, repair friendships, and be kind and supportive friends within our Balance & Bloom community.

We revisited “First You Make Your Fingers Click”, continuing to strengthen brain-body connection, coordination, rhythm, and joyful engagement through movement and music.

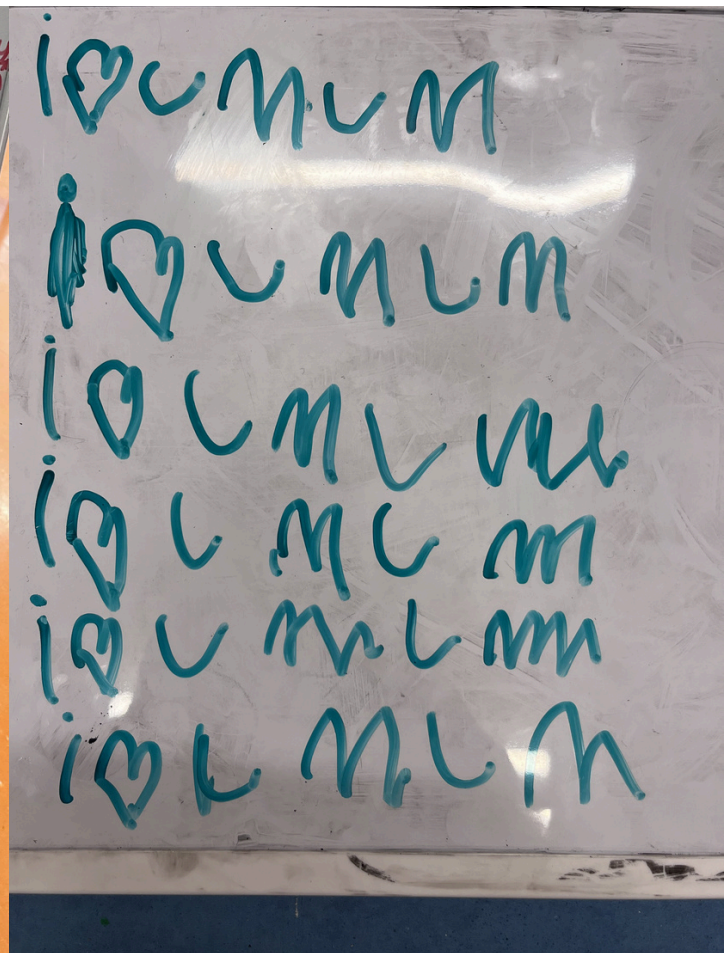
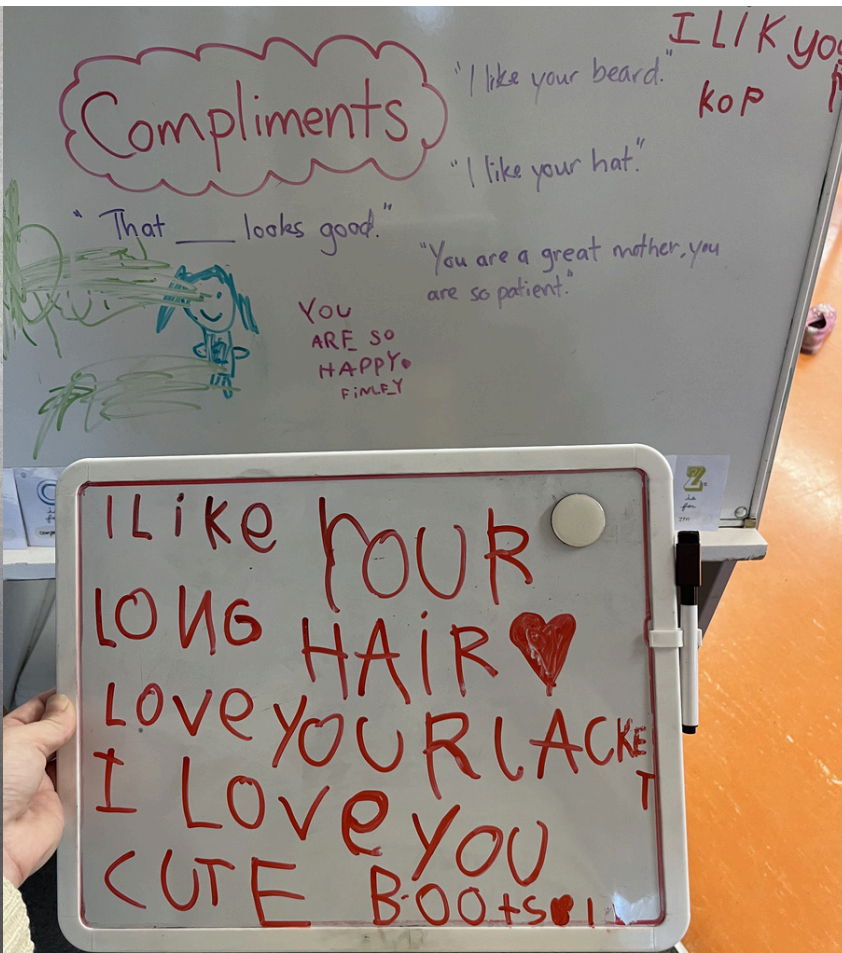
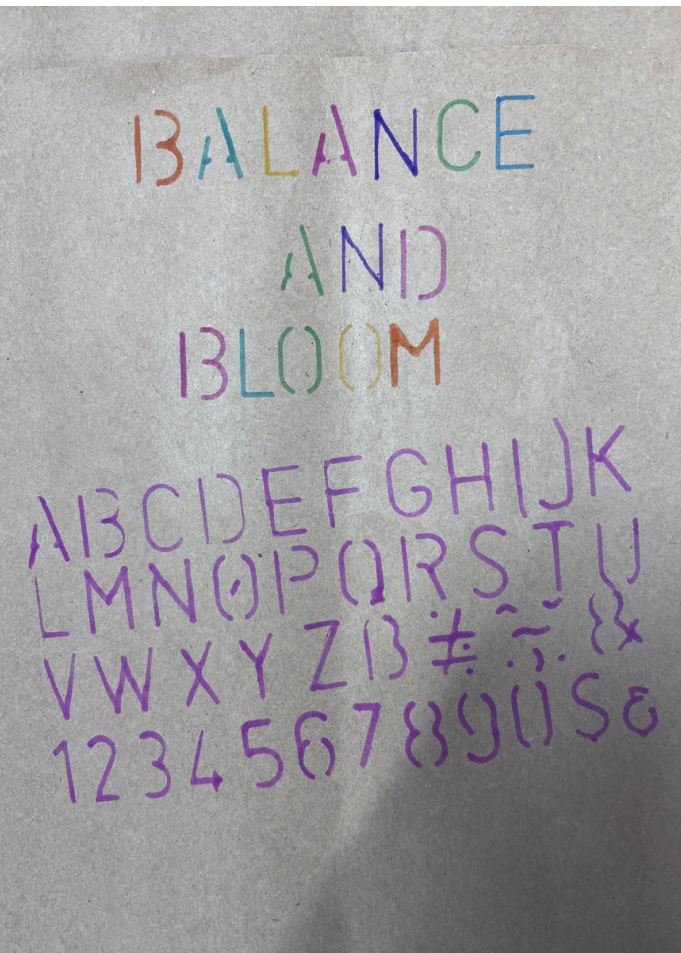


Balance & Bloom



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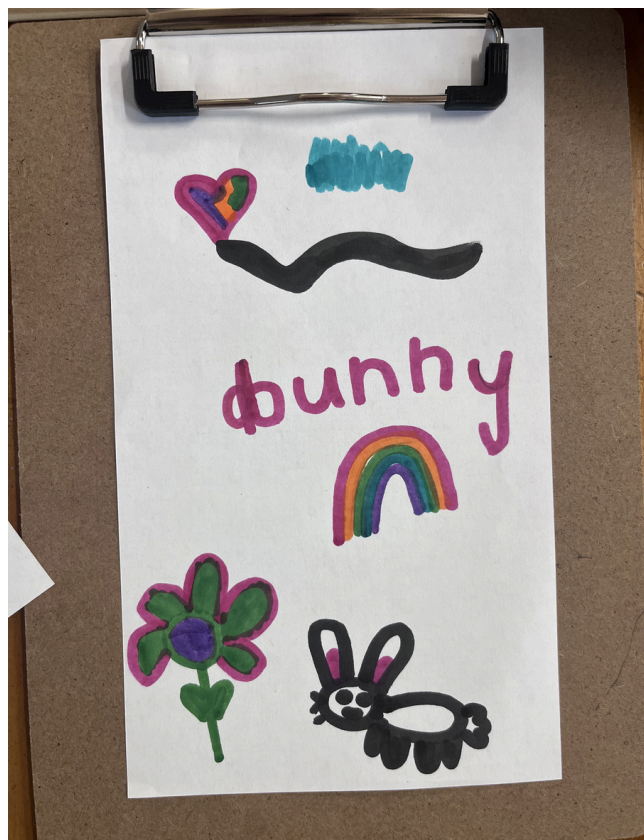
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Around the room, a range of playful learning provocations invited children to explore according to their own interests and rhythms. Literacy and numeracy experiences included reusable write-and-wipe books, alphabet stencils, puzzles, and open-ended opportunities to practise letters, words, and mark-making in playful and meaningful ways.

As always, Nature Playdough was a favourite – **supporting sensory regulation, imagination, and purposeful play.**

Our sensory play took an unexpected and delightful turn with the introduction of non-toxic water beads, which organically evolved into a collaborative “squishy foot spa” experience!

These moments of child-led curiosity are such a beautiful reminder that meaningful learning often unfolds in ways we could never fully predict – and we love observing where children’s interests, creativity, and problem-solving naturally lead.





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Outside, Sean also offered a bucket drumming experience, with children exploring rhythm, coordination, listening, and joyful music-making together.

Our main creative invitation this session was creating Nature Mandalas using beautiful loose parts and foraged treasures. With calming music softly playing, children carefully designed mindful arrangements, noticing colour, shape, balance, and beauty through a slow and intentional creative process.

To celebrate their creations, children were delighted to photograph and print a special keepsake sticker of their mandala to take home.

We finished our time together with a beautiful compliment circle, exploring what compliments are and practising offering kind words to one another, our families, and ourselves. Through puppets, whiteboards, and shared examples, children reflected on kindness, encouragement, and the powerful impact words can have.

One especially beautiful thread throughout the session was the idea of being present – noticing how calm focus, creativity, and connection can emerge when we slow down enough to truly be here.

It was such a wholesome afternoon full of creativity, curiosity, meaningful connection, and joyful exploration.

We feel so grateful to witness these beautiful moments of learning and belonging unfold together!

Arohanui,

Becki, Sean & Donovan

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