

CUP: a vibrant vessel of learning and creativity

Kids' Domain Early Learning Centre

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the experiences of the four-year-old learning community at Kids' Domain as they engaged in a dynamic, emergent inquiry over an 18-month period. It tells of extraordinary encounters between everyday plastic cups, children, teachers, parents and extended families/whanau and the innovative and significant learning that was generated.

The writers, Bridgette Towle and Angela Heape, bring life to the emergent process of the CUP inquiry by making visible the teachers' thinking, questioning and decision-making. By framing the story using verbs that spark - *construct, transform, collaborate, imagine, theorise, connect, listen, provoke, embody* – they invite readers to experience and think along with them as they come to a new understanding of the vital role things, artefacts and objects play in creative expression and the construction of knowledge.

This enthralling story shows the courage and willingness of teachers to open their 'heartbodominds' to an uncertain, fluid process of inquiry that contextually weaves together the curricular principles of Te Whariki, the influence of Reggio Emilia, and the inspiring work of American authors and educators, Margie Carter and Ann Pelo. In their foreword to the book Margie and Ann say:

"The story of the children, the educators, the families, and the cups embodies the conviction that education both requires and nurtures imagination, determination, vision, humility, experimentation, relationship, and listening. Bridgette, Angela, the teachers, children and their families demonstrate the generosity, playfulness, and intellectual vitality of a community anchored by these qualities – a community alive with small acts of magic."