Rachel Keeling Nursery School, where the child comes first

Special Books at Rachel Keeling Nursery School

Special Books are a means to enable the child, family and staff to be active participants in a child's learning journey.

Special Books provide the means to capture learning across all areas of the EYFS and support the child holistically.
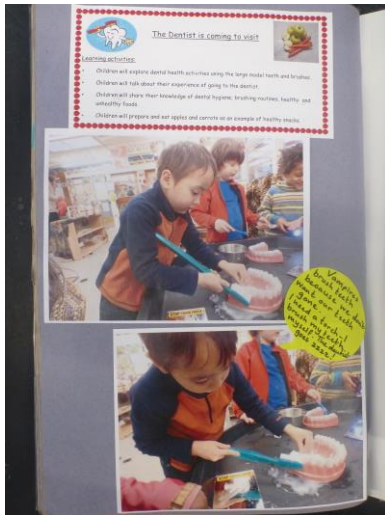
Special Books make children's learning visible. They show progress in curriculum areas and learning dispositions such as independence, confidence, sustaining concentration, resilience, communication, empathy.

Like our children, Special books are unique but should be consistent.
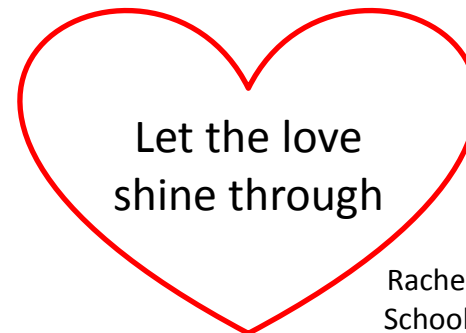
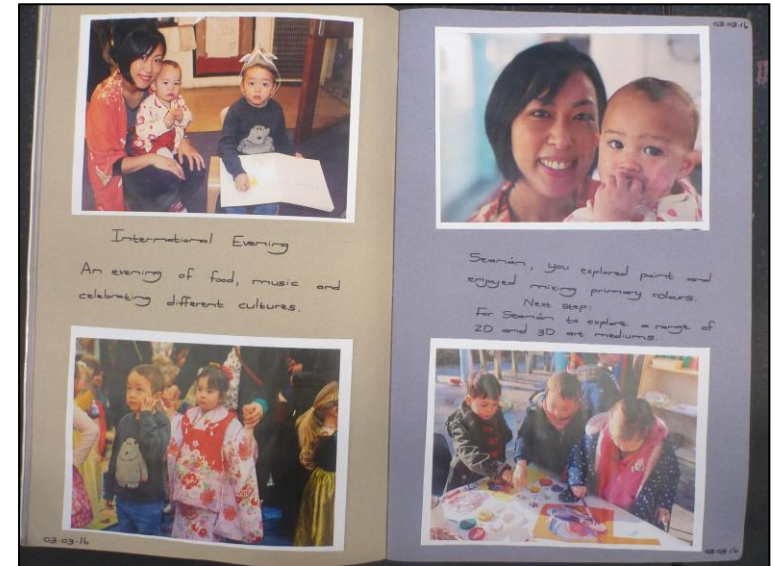# What staff have we agreed about Special Books.

- ✓ They **belong to the child** and should be **available** all the time
- ✓ The **child's voice** should be dominant
- ✓ They should be **written to the child**
- ✓ Contain a **range of observations**: learning journeys, shorter observations, language samples, paintings, mark making, lunch, trips
- ✓ **The learning must be explicit** – spell it out!
- ✓ Be **creative** – different sized photographs, fold out paintings, mini books, speech bubbles
- ✓ **Photographs – clear**, significant and annotated, no blurred, squashed photos!
- ✓ Ask **children to interact**– ask questions, set challenges
- ✓ They should depict **holistic development** (lunch, trips, confidence, kindness)
- ✓ <u>We should feel proud of our Special Books</u>

Let the love shine through

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What can families do with Special Books?

- Children may choose to take their Special Books home any time.

- We do ask that they bring them to school each day as they may have photographs and Key Worker time to share their books with friends and adults.

- Families can add photographs, drawings, mementos such as cinema tickets and postcards.

- Families can write in the Special Book in any language they use at home.

- Share your Special Book with your child and look back at previous learning.

- Think about the things your child loves and include those – we are interested in the holistic development of children.

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