



# Spotlight on LEARNING

Developmentally Appropriate  
Hands-On Learning



Redwood School



## What is

DAHOL?

Developmentally Appropriate Hands-On Learning is learning that deliberately targeted at the age and stage of a learner. It is interactive, kinesthetic and tactile learning. At Redwood School this way of learning is explored through our Investigation time and aspects of our InSTEAD learning. In our Junior classrooms this looks like play and develops in sophistication and complexity as we progress through the school.



## Why it's

IMPORTANT?

Hands-on learning is the oldest and most effective learning method. Physical manipulation of equipment and tools builds neural pathways more effectively than just listening or watching something be done or explained. We know that hands-on learning better engages both sides of the brain, helping students make better connections to what they are learning. Knowledge and skills are more likely to be retained through hands-on learning. Hands-on learning engages learners and also supports a wide range of learning needs.

## Redwood School Definition of DAHOL

"At Redwood School ākonga have opportunities to actively participate in intentionally planned hands-on experiences that allow curiosity, creativity and problem solving to flourish. Through reflection, ākonga make stronger connections with their world."



## Links to

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Developmentally Appropriate Hands-On Learning **ENGAGES** learners. It **EMPOWERS** learners by integrating tactile learning with problem-solving, creativity, curiosity and mahi tahi. By emphasising doing and reflecting on that doing student develop the practical capabilities to be **LIFELONG LEARNERS**.

