

# Chelsea - Fashion Designer

The sewing machine has come out of the cupboard, and there is a line of friends very keen to get creating! Chelsea came to me with an idea - "I want to make a skirt" she told me. What a great project, and so we got to work planning the skirt. This was its own challenge and Chelsea felt unsure about how to put her ideas onto paper. I had some ideas of how to help her but in the end Chelsea found her own way and made a detailed plan, complete with roses as decoration. As we started work choosing material and finalising details, it was very clear that Chelsea had given this project quite a lot of thought. When I asked how long the skirt would need to be, Chelsea indicated it would come just below the knee. Out came the measuring tape so we could cut the material the right length. Once cut, I wrapped it around Chelsea to show her how it would be. I anticipated Chelsea would be impressed with the enormous amount of cutting out she had just done but as I was beginning to realise, she had a clear vision and this wasn't quite right yet. Her hands moved around her legs as she tried to tell me "I want it more..." Unsure of the words, she let her hands tell me the rest of the idea. "More gathered - a bigger skirt?" I queried. "Yes." So, we went back to the fabric and scissors to add another piece to make the skirt fuller. The challenges didn't end there - long seams and decorating with roses took time and effort! I wondered if Chelsea knew how much work making a skirt was? However, each day Chelsea came to Mitchell Street, she asked to work on this project a bit more, until finally the day came when she could wear it home. He tino pai tō mahi - great work Chelsea! This was a big project!





My thoughts on your learning.....

What a fantastic amount of learning has been wrapped up in this project. The most significant for me though is the enormous amount of perseverance required, as I suspect this has been a much bigger project than Chelsea realised at first. As Chelsea came back to her skirt each day, she was learning how investing effort into something that matters to you can lead to huge rewards. This skirt took many sessions and Chelsea's disposition towards persevering with each step and staying true to her original design, means she has made something she can truly be proud of.

Chelsea's plan was an important part of her project. Guy Claxton, a theorist we respect here at Greerton, believes creating a plan for your work is a valuable way to build learning power through being an available point of reference for reflecting and evaluating your work. Chelsea used her plan for communicating her ideas to me, recording the measurements of her skirt and checking the skirt was decorated as she had originally decided. Chelsea, you are fabulous at designing and sewing.

### **Opportunities and possibilities.**

The perseverance required to finish this skirt was significant! I look forward to seeing where Chelsea might choose to apply that same 'stickability' to next....

Arohanui, Tanya.