

“We are lucky to be near a beautiful river and it is nice for our kids to be connecting with that.”

NZ Landcare Trust Otago Regional Coordinator Craig Simpson says working with children to develop an interest in their surrounds, particularly learning about water quality and sustainable land use was really rewarding. For the past two years this work has been funded through Curious Mind's Participatory Science Platform.

Between water monitoring, riparian planting and restoration with the Department of Conservation, and stream health sessions, Craig says the kids are developing a strong curiosity that will hopefully form a lifelong interest.

Whilst the programme is all about the kids, Craig says there has been a bonus of the kids going home and spreading the word to their parents.

“As adults, you are always more aware of how you speak and what you say, and we obviously can't tell anyone to do anything on their land, we can only suggest whereas these kids go home with their learnings and have a good honest chat to their parents. Sometimes kids can say something more directly than we can, in their own way, which continues to help create positive action on the ground.”

