

Edward and Adam talking about the naughty possum coming to kinder and ate all the strawberries and sugar pea plant while watering.



* AT CENTURY'S END - CICADAS - SEED INDUSTRY
* MONGHIA ON HORSEBACK - PORTLAND ROADS
* THIRTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS

Thomas's cicada picture amazed all the children. The children were very interested in cicada's life – It lives underground most of its life, and comes out the ground only just before its life ending up.

Let's draw what a worms does underground!



How a worm helps the plants grow out of the ground? – Children's thought

" Worm came together and push the plant out and grow!"

~ Many children ~

"Worm get a key and open the treasure box. They get a special machine from the box and pull the plant up with the machine!" ~Hayden~

" They got special things in their mouth. They go out of the ground and spit it out to the plant so the plant can grow!"

~ Thomas ~

The children's Learning Stories Week 3&4 Term2 (1)

"Mysteries of underground life"

Week3 Term2(1)

Following up our conversation last week, I invited the children to play pretending a few creatures that live under the ground. The children crept and wiggled around being a worm with my low tone piano sound. "What do you think a worm does under the ground?" I asked. Then children said "Making holes!"..we could not think of any other things to do. Yayoi continued making up a little story saying "Oh no..a mole came! He came and chase the worms for his snack!" So all the worm rushed to back to...". Then we wondered "... to where..? I guess many children just realised we really don't know about underground..... So! Yayoi suggested the children to do a research home work with mums and dads. First, we decided to research and know about "What creature live under the ground..?" - Let's start our journey from here!(Learning-1)

Week 3 Term 2(2)

Home work ; Many children brought the homework (Thank you, mums and dads!) and the children really engaged in talking about their research work at the group discussion! We found many interesting facts while sharing our homework and enjoyed gaining the new information. The last 2 children introduced about a worm...and now the children started to talk about some of the families keep " A thousand of worm in a box!" Yayoi shouted " That's a mystery! Why do they keep them in the box?" Someone said " B..because they use them to grow that vegetables!" But Yayoi did not understand and asked the children "How come they need worm for veggies to grow??.that's mystery!"(Learning-1,2 Communication-5)

Week4 Term2

Today we looked at the onions that I started to grow in the water jars and saw some roots growing. Then we looked at the pictures of creatures live under the ground, our homework that few more children brought. One of the children brought a picture of a worm. He told us that " Worm eat some fruits and veggies and help the garden to grow. A worm dig the holes so that the plants can grow and the roots grow down to the ground!". Remembering our discussion that we had last week, Yayoi questioned them. " Well.. you said that the worm is helping the plants to grow...but how? You said that they dig, so that their roots grow under the ground...but how do they help the plant grow out of the ground...?" The children and I thought about this topic further. Then Yayoi suggested the children to imagine and draw how a worm helps the plants grow out of the soil. - This time all the children responded to my questioning meaningfully, which was great! It was so much fun for me to learn about each child's fun thought . (Learning-2, Communication-3)

Week5 Term2

Today we looked at our prediction pictures that we drew last time and discussed about how we can make an experiment to see the fact and truth.

"How we can see what a worm does underground?"

"You can't see them because they live deep under the ground!" (Alexander)

"Look at it in the internet!" (Finley)

"No I want to see the real"

"I know, get a big bowl" (Skye)

"And put dirt in it!" (A few children said at the same time)

"and make some holes and put worms into the holes!" (Fraser)

"Ahh, okay, so that we can see what worms do in the dirt!"

"Yeah!" (children)

"You know?, they don't like the sun" (Jack)

"Ok..then we have to put a cover on the bowl?"

"What it is called?"

"...Worm bowl!" (Skye)

"Mmm..it sounds look like a bowl of worm spaghetti"

"Euh...!" (Everyone laughed)

"Worm... farm!" (Hayden)

"That's a good name!"

"And... your homework tells us that worms eat veggies and fruits.... dirt...egg shells.....banana skin.."

"Yeah, put all the scraps!"

"And we need worms! Who can bring a worm?"

"Me!" " Not me!"

The children were engaged in the discussion well . At lunch time we decided to collect our scraps for the experiment. (Communication-1,3,5 Learning -



"Mysteries of underground life"

The children's Learning Stories Week 5&46Term2 (1)



Week5 Term2 (2)

After we sang a new song " Australia is a big land"(Children might need more information about the beauties of Australia to make the song more meaningful for them) , today we have finally made our "Worm farm" as we planed last time! It was great to hear that the children excitedly reminded me that which part of our experiment are suggested by who during discussion. Just before we filled our jars with dirt, Yayoi made an announcement -" I just want to trick worms...making layers of sand and dirt in their worm farm...and want to see what they do in it!". So! the children excitedly went out to the yard and enjoyed collecting some dirt and sand for our experiment. I could confirm the children are all very engaged in this project. We decided to bring worms from our home. (Learning-1&3)

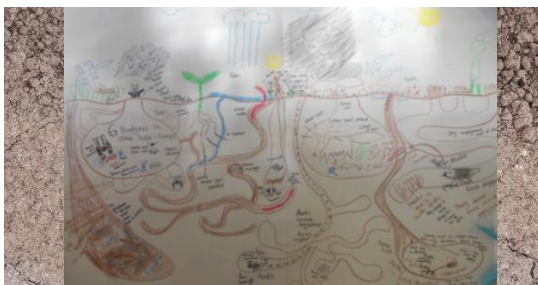
Week6 Term2

Thank you for bringing your worms!! After the children enjoyed playing (?!) and observing worms on the tray, we gathered up again and had a very good discussion to progress our experiment. We excitedly put the worms into our worm farm, which we prepared with layers of sand and dirt. Then, as Jack suggested us, we decided to put cover them on. Before doing this , we made an exciting discussion. " What do you think the layers going to be, when we open it up 10 days later?" Each child made prediction. About half of group said " There will be still layers" and quarter of them said it will become only dirt, and rest of them is becoming sand. The children were again very engaged. (L-2)



"Mysteries of underground life"

Week 7 (1) Today, as the children were very interested in cicada at the previous discussion, we again talked about some facts of a cicada. Then we again reviewed all other our homework and made predictions how these creatures, that the children brought for their home works, living underground. Although some of the children were distractive during the discussion, many children wanted to speak what they know and think about those creatures, which was good to observe. Now Yayoi suggested the children to go back home and research about those animals little bit more. (Communication-1, Learning-2)



Week8 (1) Thank you so much for supporting our group project at the homework, mums, dads, sisters and brothers! We learnt so many interesting facts from children's homework! Each animal group individually had a discussion and shared the new information. In the small group discussion, each child wonderfully described what they learnt from their homework and impressed me a lot. I could see how they were so engaged in their homework and enjoyed the research work with their families. I pictured out all the information on a large paper and we shared them together at the large group. Yayoi suggested the children to represent this picture with clay model, then she showed her demonstration of how to make clay model. All children showed excitement for this her idea! It is going to be our creative project for the next several weeks! While enjoying this creative work Yayoi is now gradually going to start to tell some fact of underground life, by combining it with children's research work. Today we went to back to talk about how animals and insect's 'poo' is important for the Earth. We again enjoyed the Japanese book, that tells them the fun nature cycles in Udoki forest in Africa. Please ask the children what the animals did(poo!) after they ate the yummy fruits and what happened after it in the forest. Children always love this picture book! (Learning-2,3&4, Communication-3,5,)

Make our learning visible



Week8 (2) It was exciting to start our clay project. Following the Reggio Emilia's learning approach, I never hesitate to give children 'Hand-on-hand' guidance at their art experience. Many children enjoyed seeing a beautiful piece of clay becoming formed in their hands with my support. The children also had a great experience to see each of our models gathered and became a large meaningful picture of "Underground life". The children successfully made their new knowledge visible. (CO-3, C-1, L-3

"Mysteries of underground life

The children's Learning Stories Week 9&10 Term2



Week 9

Following up our "animals' poo story", we made another little experiment. "Remember? The animals' poo got a lot of good things to grow the plant. The animals eat some good leaves. And the leaves in their tummy is going to be poo, but how it becomes good for the plants?" Yayoi questioned herself..and so did the children. We all made 'thinking faces' together. "Let's see what is happening in their tummy." Yayoi said. She pretended to be an animal and eat some leaves. Yayoi pretended to chew (She made the leaf into tiny crumbles) and put it into the water bottle. "This is a pretend animal tummy." Yayoi said. "Now the animals walk around, so their food in tummy is shaken" Then she shook the bottle, then pour the water into the wet paper. "Then it came out like this as their poo and wee!" Yayoi said and the children laughed. The leaf crumbles went down with water into the between paper and paper. Then Yayoi explained "This is what happen when the animals chew up the nice leaves, and makes the leaves into tiny tiny crumbles in their tummy and it came out as poo. The tiny crumble in their poo can go down into the earth -because they are so tiny, and mix with dirt. It makes better and rich soil."

We also found our onions in the jars growing more roots, and also it got some green shoots from the top! We talked about the long roots suck more water and bring it to the leave to grow more. We thought that the plant suck the "good things" from the soil just same as the onion suck the water in the jar.

Then we looked at our worm farm together... finally! - Although we could not see the sand and dirt mixing up yet but... Yes! We could clearly see that worms made tunnels among the dirt and sand. Looking at the result of our worm experiment, we confirmed that the worms make tracks while they make spaces for the air and rainwater coming into the soil. Then we added our new knowledge, which is about how the animals' poo helps the plants, in this theory. "A worm eats leaves and and make it in tiny tiny tiny crumbles and it becomes poo. Then this poo..." Then the children took over after this "....help the plant to grow!!".

It looks like that we learnt so many things only one day...but actually the children have been already developing those new knowledge while going through the project work during this term. Today's discussion made all our "Mystery of underground" clear! Lastly we read another Japanese book about a worm with fun pictures. It made today's conversation more clear. (Learning-1,2,3,4)

Week10

Today we looked underground mystery from the different side. Yayoi read another Japanese book written about "Spoiled food." - A little girl saw her mum buried the food scraps into the garden and investigated how those food are going to be under the ground. The children had a fun journey with this story and found another fact - The plants grow helped by creatures and it fell on the ground and got spoiled, or animals eat the plant and do some poo. The spoiled food and animals' poo becomes tiny tiny crumbles in the ground by the more smaller creatures such as a worm and it helps new plants growing. -This is the endless nature cycles. Following up this, Yayoi now carried the big worm farm, which has been left in the yard for a long time, into the room. We all had a look at the system of worm farm and how all the scraps turn to be special juice in the farm with worms' help(We now all know that this includes worm's poo and liquid) . Then we talked this juice can be called fertilizer that the nature gives us, and we need it for our garden. - We finally came back to our discussion about "What is fertilizer and how to make fertilizer", which was our wonder that we thought at the beginning of this term. With discovering of this fact, our long discussion for this term has now finalised. After this final discussion, we all went to the garden and enjoyed collecting the worm juice and poured it to our plant boxes. Some of the boys had fun finding the worms and directly put them into the garden. - Our long learning journey now finally could reach up the discovery of something 'important' for children's real life.

After the discussion we enjoyed playing pretending to be the underground creatures that we have been researching through this term. Now all the children realised that we have now more knowledge about the those creatures!! - comparing how we did not know about underground creatures at the begging of the term!! Let's see if this fun experience can be extended to their end of term performance!(Learning-1,2,3,4 Community-4)





Week 11 term 3 **"Mysteries of underground life** *Our final stage*

Yes, we made it! The children successfully transferred what they have been researching during this term into their presentation! The children invited their families and acted as the animals that they learnt together and represented the new information as "The story of Underground mysteries". The children **all** enjoyed and felt so proud for themselves being knowledgeable and confident to demonstrate what they know now! We also showed our clay project that has been just finished! Yayoi made notes about what they researched with mums and dads and stuck them on the each animals habitation of their clay animals. This beautiful clay project work is now going to be displayed in Beaumaris library for the next several weeks! I congratulate to the children and their families for this wonderful learning experience that they made together . The children were definitely developing their self confidence and 'Love of Learning ' with wonderful support of adults who are in around their lives.

