

Indulging in the arts



We decided to focus on exploring arts and crafts after we have noticed a lot of interest in this area. Knowing that our children have a strong sense of belonging and would be willing to extend their own ideas, we moved the paints to other areas in the centre. In the rock garden the children painted rocks and at the carpentry table projects were finished off with a coat of paint.

At the collage table we continued to support the children in their ideas and encourage their skills. On a separate table to the collage table we offered different art experiences for the children to experiment with. Throughout the term we provided a variety of art mediums and introduced new painting techniques such as marble and roller painting. Children have enjoyed the challenge of the new mediums and techniques, creating their own design and adding in their own style to the medium on offer.

We've carefully framed and displayed the art work on the walls. This display was so effective, that it inspired children who did not create a piece of art the first time around, to ask for the paints to be set up again.

One session we used black paper and cellophane to create stained glass windows. We were surprised to

see that even the older boys took an interest in this activity. Was it because we set it up outside? Or did the group inspire the individuals to have a go?

Or was it the fascination with the reflection of light?

We tried to extend individual children's interests by following their ideas. While some children enjoyed the challenge of creating beautiful art, others took a more sensory route. They spent a lot of time painting their hands and making handprints on paper. We offered face paint, but it didn't seem to be the path they wanted to follow. The sensory exploration inspired making monoprints on another session. With paint brushed onto our table the children created patterns by swishing their hands through the paint. We carefully placed the paper onto the painted table to print their designs.

It presented opportunities for creativity and self-expression, to gain literacy and numerical skills; it led to fantasy play and empowered the children to take risks to experiment with different tools, materials and techniques.