



Sam
Billings

Learning Journal

Woodland Park Academy

Investigation Skills



Observation

Sam makes use of his investigative skills as he develops and tests out ideas across the continuous provision.

Using magnifying glasses to support his detailed observations, Sam showed a particular interest in mini-beasts. He was able to make links between his first-hand observations in the exploration garden and pictures of mini-beasts in a reference book he had found in the school library. Over a few weeks Sam returned to his line of enquiry and carried out his own research to find out more about where beetles like to live and what they like to eat.

This term, Sam has shown an interest in magnets and has carried out his own investigation to find out which objects in the classroom are attracted by the magnet. Recording the results of his investigation in pictures and words, Sam is developing a long list of results.

Sam is developing his understanding of new scientific concepts and he is also learning the importance of reading and writing with a purpose in mind. Motivated by his natural curiosity to find out more about the world around him, Sam shows his ability to apply his literacy skills in new situations.

Comments

Mark Williams

We are off to the Science Museum next week to do a bit more investigating!

Mark Williams

Sam talks about his investigations at home too. We went to the library and Sam found some books which he wants to show you. He's bringing them into school today!



Expressive Art and Design

Comments

Mark Williams

We are amazed at Sam's progress. He's always loved making things at home but we hadn't realised the extent of his model making in school too. He loved showing us the photographs.

Observation

Sam is beginning to show a keen interest in art and design.

He creates detailed 3D models by placing and arranging carefully selected natural materials and objects. He can focus for long periods of time and becomes totally absorbed in his creations.

His fascination with shape and form started with block play when he was able to select and name the different blocks on the shelf. His designs have now become more complex, with more attention focused on selecting and positioning the objects, reviewing and re-arranging to create new structures.



The Exploration Garden



Observation

Sam loves exploring outdoors. He is able to select suitable clothes to wear depending on the weather and can put on his waterproofs without adult help. Sam is able to find his own boots, recognising the colour. He has also learned to check inside each boot for his name. He particularly enjoys outdoor role play and creates imaginative stories to go alongside his play.

This week, Sam shared his experiences of camping and encouraged a group of children to work together to build their own camping den. He selected resources to make a bed inside the den using blankets and pillows from the book area. He also created a camp fire for cooking, collecting pans and plates from the classroom. Sam and his friends spent all morning playing in the den they had built. Recalling events from his own camping holiday, Sam encouraged his friends to tell stories by the campfire whilst toasting imaginary marshmallows on sticks.

In the afternoon, Sam asked for a large piece of paper and spent time drawing a plan of the campsite. He created a detailed line drawing showing his whole family around the camp fire.

Comments

Mark Williams

It's good to see how much Sam remembers from our camping trip in the holidays. Looks like we need to plan another trip soon!



Sam's first week in school.

Observation

Sam settled quickly into his new reception class and has made friends with a group of children he recognised from his transition days. He is happy and confident when coming into the class each morning and has quickly got used to new routines. Sam is able to make choices about what he wants to do and who he wants to play with. He often starts with construction and block play but then moves around the continuous provision showing focus and concentration in each area. Sam says that he enjoys coming to school because "he can play with his friends."

Comments

Mark Williams

Sam loves coming to school and especially enjoys all the activities in the outdoor classroom. It's been great to see him making new friends and growing in confidence during his first few weeks in school.



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