

STRONG CLOSE

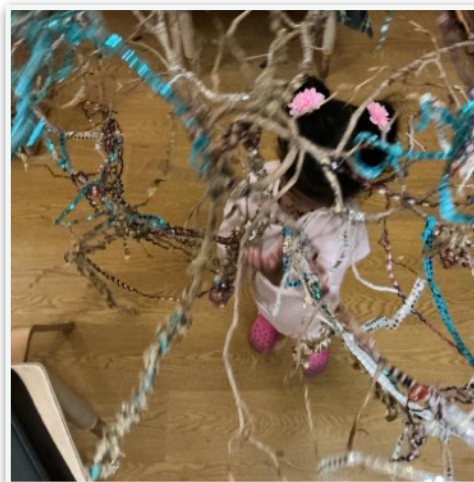
09/09/26

Weaving Wonder-Sunflowers and play



M came into Yellow Class very excited this morning, announcing, “Miss Rachel, I want to make an alligator that’s green!” So, of course, an alligator was soon underway! However our main activity this morning involved a lovely willow branch that has been hanging in nursery. We decided it needed a little more ‘magic’ so the children decorated it with colourful wool and pieces of sparkly fabric, weaving them in and out and wrapping them around the branches.

This was a lovely activity for developing fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and concentration as the children worked out how to thread and manipulate the different materials. We joked that all the wool was beginning to look like a giant spider’s web, which naturally led to a search for spiders hiding amongst the branches! We eventually decided that it was actually a magic tree, and that we were simply adding even more magic to it. M, M, A, A and M all enjoyed getting involved. We returned to the tree again in the afternoon, when A became particularly absorbed in the weaving. We had great fun passing a long piece of fabric over the top of a branch and underneath, with A passing it to me and me passing it back. After a while, she worked out how to do the whole process herself and was very pleased with her new skill!



Outside, we took inspiration from sunflowers and drew on pieces of card on the ground using large crayons. The children, as always, had plenty of their own ideas too. M told me that he had made a beach, complete with a tree, a bridge, an apple and the sun, E also drew an apple, along with some flowers.

A explained that she was making “a house for some flies” a wonderfully imaginative bit of architecture! J was busy drawing Mummy and Daddy working on the computer. When I asked A if he would like to make a picture, he considered the offer and politely replied, “I don’t think so.” Fair enough!

Later, L joined us and told me she was drawing a ladybird on the monkey bars. Apparently a real ladybird had been spotted there earlier, so she was cleverly drawing from a very recent observation. I brought out watercolours so the children could experiment with mixed media, adding washes of colour over and around their crayon drawings. This gave them

another opportunity to explore colour, texture and mark making. A informed me that she was painting “a surprise”, so naturally I wasn’t allowed to know too much!



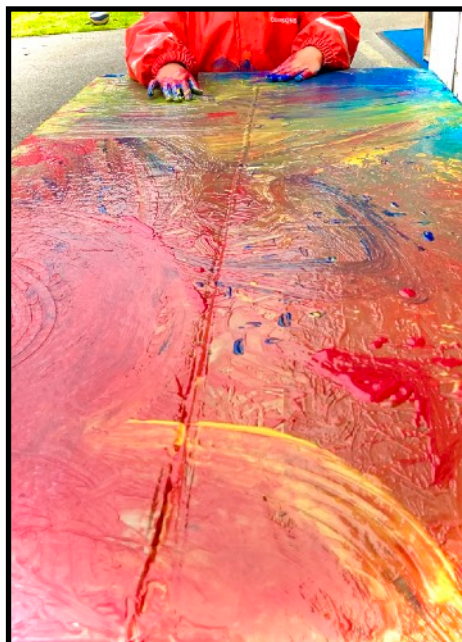
In the afternoon, after adding yet more magic to our tree, we turned our attention to a large cardboard box that the children had been playing with outside. Using primary-coloured paints, rollers and brushes, the children transformed the box together, mixing colours as they worked and enjoying the rather different experience of painting a three-dimensional surface.

J, L, M, M, P, K, A and A were among the many children who joined in. There was lots of collaborative painting, colour mixing and large scale physical mark making and unsurprisingly, quite a lot of paint on the painters too!

A particularly enjoys exploring paint with her whole body. As well as using the brushes and rollers, she loves painting with her hands and will cheekily add a little blob of paint to the end of her nose before giving me a lovely grin

Once again, even the clean-up became part of the fun, with the children happily taking brushes to the floor with water and giving everything a good scrub.





At the end of the day, I put on my giant sunflower costume. The children loved looking closely at it, touching the enormous petals and seeing a sunflower suddenly come to life. A day of alligators, magic trees, spider webs, houses for flies, ladybirds, giant boxes and one very large sunflower, just an ordinary day at nursery! 😍