

06.10.21

Carrying on with the colour mixing and sensory experience with powder paint and cornflour. Too delicious not to. There was a thought to use porridge oats as a texture but I



personally am not keen on using foodstuffs as a material - not that they don't provide the most fantastic textures and play opportunities but I feel a little uncomfortable when I know there are households struggling to buy food. I know cornflour and flour for playdough is a food product too - it's a choice isn't it and as is often the case it's not black and white - just a personal thought. I am conflicted about it.

The cornflour and powder paint attracted a great deal of attention from E and other E, C, H, H, A, A, to name a few. I found this pot arrangement intriguing



E: *Red and blue, what's it going to make? make a big one. I was taking*





photos and E wanting to see the pictures said “*Let me check*”

I do try and delay the adding of water as long as possible! mostly, because I’m thinking it will go muddy and become less interesting , but I forget that might not make it less interesting at all - we just assume , that it is bright colours that are only the attractive ones. I was generous with the amount of cornflour because the effect of cornflour and water is only effective if there is the right consistency.

The scientific description of what happens to cornflour and water is (and I have to look it up on google every time! “*The corn flour (corn starch in the US) and water mixture is just one example of what are known as non-Newtonian*

fluids, whose viscosities (resistance to flow) behave differently from the more familiar, "Newtonian" fluids from everyday life.” Now I thought it was called a thixotropic liquid but now I am finding another word to describe it rheopectic fluid- anybody a scientist that can set me right?

Google says

The key difference between thixotropic and rheopectic fluids is that in thixotropic fluids, **the viscosity of the fluid decreases with stress over time** whereas, in rheopectic fluids, the viscosity of the fluid increases with stress over time. Now I find something that my brain will retain -

Cornflour and water is called Oobleck, named after a Dr Seuss book . At last something I will be able to remember . Before I get back to the subject and stop internet surfing- in fact its very much on the subject -

The term thixotropy consists of the Greek words "thixis" (touch) and "trepein" (to turn).

Feels very relevant... here’s the children description of the above scientific process!!

A: *I’m making a muddy puddle*

A: *Like mix it up here. I’m making pancakes*

E: *Let’s make a ting*

Another child: *It’s gloopy*

E: *My fingers gone*

A: *My fingers gone away*





I did take a video of the gloopiness but can't post it here as it's too big but these pictures give a timeline snapshot
Indeed, where did his fingers go?



Conversation at the table between new E and C

E: *What's your name?*

C: C

E: *Look C, made a big puddle*

Meanwhile there was painting going on elsewhere

At the easel and the table E made 2 pictures of different sizes. Although it's out of focus I included it because I did think it was interesting that she made similar marks even though

they were different sizes of papers and brushes. OK so maybe there are some advantages to redimix - the brightness of that pink!



H was using the small paints at the table. I was supporting him with the order of the process

H: Red, I like red

Me: Now green?

H: Ooh it's gone dark.. black is dark

one more little discovery - those little things you come across that make you smile. C and the bear. There was nothing in that pot to start with



No wonder that bears wearing that expression!

See you all next Wednesday for more exploring.

