

S.C. 30.03.22

Today I was doing Squiggles for Giggles with imagination library. The Squiggles for Giggles started off as an activity inspired by the Big Draw where I was running a session for adults and later for staff to encourage and support adults to draw as so many of us ages frightened by drawing in later life, where as you rarely find a child who doesn't make any kind of marks- whether it's with their bodies in space or their fingers in the air or making patterns with sticks. One of the feedbacks came back that people would like to do this activity alongside their children- maybe that's a bit less threatening - a situation where children can help build adults confidences??

It's obviously still a strange uncertain time at the moment, especially with the surge of Covid and the war in Ukraine that's brought war closer to home., but I'd like to run these sessions more frequently if possible. We'll see.

Today **A** and her mum came, **A** (sorry if I've spelt this name wrong or got it wrong completely I am still having covid brain fog and seemed to have misplaced my notes!) and her Mum and **A's** mum who came with the 2 younger children, **N** and **E**.

I had made up some cardboard sketchbooks and brought a variety of mark making materials like Posca pens, water soluble c'arandache pastels, felt tips - large and small and a few animals like an elephant, a leopard or tiger and a hippopotamus - just as a light connection to the imagination library book called "Bedtime in the jungle" by John Butler

I set the tables out in a zigzag pattern just for variety and hopefully in a playful manner.

A's mum thought that **A** was a little under the weather today and she was very quiet but she immediately got stuck into drawing and decorating her book. At first, she used some of the sticky back and later really became absorbed in using the water-soluble crayons. Her Mum and I chatted a lot and she said that because of the trip that she had been on with Nursery to the woods they now go loads and it was because **A** had found it to be like a safe space for her that they have returned again and again. They even got lost once. That was a very warming thing to hear - not the getting lost bit obviously but that that trip with school made both of them feel comfortable to revisit several times and for it to become a place they go to frequently.

Later on, in the day **A's** mum thanked me for the session, she had really enjoyed it she said. **A** also took a book for her sister.



A also took to the water-soluble crayons but had worked out that there was a much more efficient way of using them - firstly by brushing the wet brush against the crayon and then by bypassing that and just dipping the crayon directly into the water. I'm sorry I haven't a picture of her drawing - my covid brained head hasn't quite disappeared yet because I thought I had taken one.

E's Mum joined us later in the session, she said that **E** often draws but today he was too excited in the space and that's why I'd like to run a few sessions so that people, adults and children get to know the session and what's possible. I had forgotten about the Posca's on the mirror and **E** enjoyed the large mark making that could happen there. He drew Daddy he declared. It was funny because he chose to sit on a chair

to make those marks for some of the time but at the same time made sure he explored the whole

space of the room too. **E** seemed to really like it when I made the biggest circle I could on the mirror.



We chatted a lot too about all kinds of things like about **A** and his climbing and how he likes to be above things- it was really interesting. **E's** Mum (sorry again for no names) would be interested she said if we did run another session.

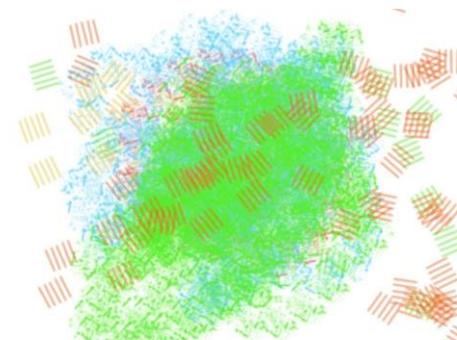
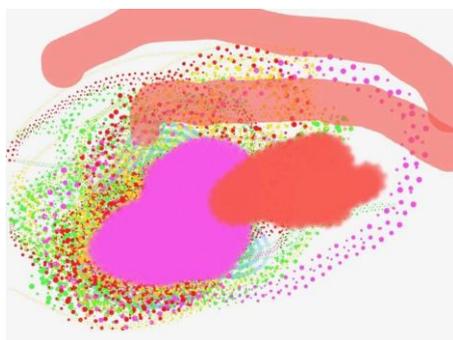
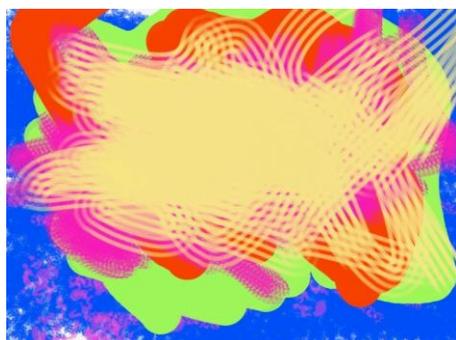
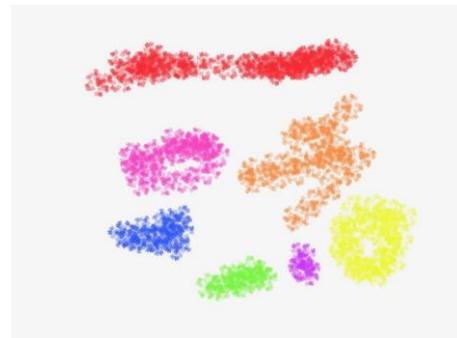
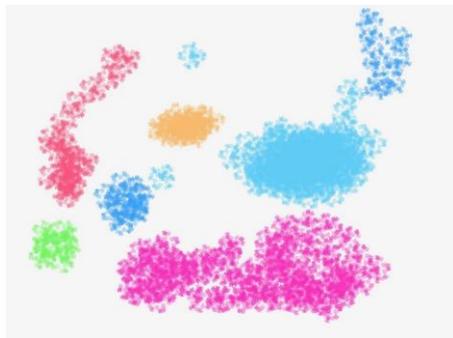
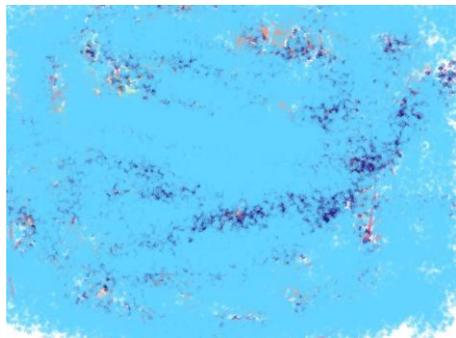
The session reminded me of the variety of things I need to bring to help give an interest to all the children.

In class in the afternoon I mostly worked with children drawing on the iPad. It was cold and a bit miserable outside and there was a lot of interest in drawing on it. Before I did sit down with the iPad I drew a circle on the easel - just as a possible provocation. Later on, I spotted more marks had been made. My guess and sometimes it's a dangerous thing to guess is this is from a child who's at a stage of wanting to draw love hearts but of course I could easily be wrong - actually just spotted the smaller love heart. Maybe the circle provided a stimulation for the size??



On the iPad. I have these in animated form but they are too big to post here but will add them to the film I am making with the others. Sometimes I take still photos of the work the children are making as they go along because I know things will change and that children, maybe adults would like to do it too enjoy, especially with digital drawing to cover the whole screen. As **E** has here.

in order from left to right these have been created by **E**, **E**, **E**, **A**, **E** again, **E** again, **A** "My Nini", **E** yet again, **N**, **N** who said "It's like sweets" I know what she means I think. I may some of them upside down. I remember at what angle **A** drew his and usually with pencil marks or other mark making I can tell from the sweep and direction of the marks which way up they were made but with digital I am realising I can't - it doesn't have the humanness of the bodies pressure etc (Only just realised this as I write this - so you go.)



It was lovely to see **A** and how her confidence has blossomed and it was also lovely to see **N** concentrating on his drawing, he was very careful and specific on choosing his colours and where exactly he wanted to place them. It might have been dull outside but it was certainly bright where I was.

