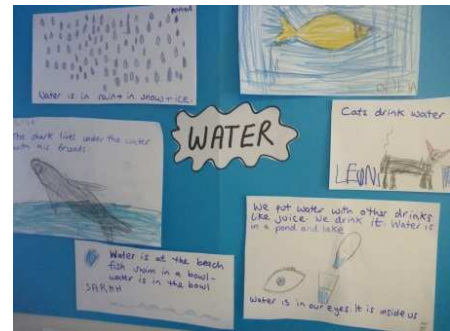


## Water activities - Feb to May 2013

### Mind mapping

We began our water theme by discussing what the word water made children think. They then drew pictures to illustrate their ideas and created a chart. Ideas included

- Water is in rain, snow and ice
- Water is inside us, it is in our eyes
- Water is at the beach / fish swim in water
- We pour water in to other drinks like juice



### Experimenting with water and food and drink

We experimented with the what water does when mixed with different food stuffs, to find out how water is used every day to create what we eat and drink. We discovered that sugar disappears or dissolves in water, that coffee dissolves in hot water and makes it brown and that when juice is mixed with water it becomes sweet and tasty. We also discovered that vitamin tablets fizz then dissolve in cold water and that porridge oats soften in hot water. The children especially enjoyed seeing water and food colour mixing with oil and separating. They observed that the water doesn't want anything to do with the oil, it won't mix.

### Measuring water / estimating

We set up pots and containers of water with funnels and measuring spoons and asked children to estimate how much water would fit into one large containers. They then transferred the water to see if they had guessed right.

### Freezing and melting

We collected snow from outside in a container, watched it melt during our morning circle and discussed why. We then looked at the level of the water, discussed why it looked less than the snow and observed it evaporate. We experimented with freezing by taking containers of water mixed with food colouring, glitter and water outside and a balloon filled with water and watching them freeze

### Sink and float

Children dropped different items, a feather, a toy car, a sponge, a stone, into a tub of water. They predicted what they thought would happen (sink or float) then discussed the results.

### Playing with water

Between February and April we regularly set up water play, with basins of water containers, funnels and pipes for children to experiment with. Children of all ages, but particularly the younger ones love this activity.

### **Water in the house**

Children talked about what water is used for in the house and used a picture of a house to illustrate their ideas.

One day we learnt the value of water when we experienced a water cut – the pipes needed to be fixed and as a result we had a container of water delivered to our Kindergarten to help us cope with this “crisis” situation. We all were thankful for this unusual water supply in a big container.



### **Washing activity**



As part of our discussion about how we use water we talked about washing. We learned the song “down in the forest” which is about a family of bears washing their clothes, then set up basins of water and detergent and taught children to wash our dolls clothing. We also set up a dish washing, rinsing and drying area and let children wash our toy food and dishes. This was a very popular activity! Children loved the bubbles and enjoyed taking responsibility and doing

something which is normally the job of the grown-ups.

### **Water in our bodies**

We talked about where we find water in our bodies and used pictures of ourselves to illustrate. Children came up with eyes, spit, sweat and blood and I explained to them that 70% of their body is made up of water.



### **Looking for water in our environment**

On our regular walks to the playground and around our local area we looked for different types of water. We mostly found puddles which children like to splash in! We also found small streams and a river. We observed the water melting as spring arrived and in late April, when the river was melted and flowing again, we played ooh sticks and watched the water carry our sticks under the bridge.