

Free Range Play at home

Weaving a Rainbow

I introduced weaving into the forest a few weeks ago using some sticks we found and some odd bits of wool and string we had lying around. The children were really interested to watch me demonstrate how to twist the yarn and were keen to have a go themselves.

Each child had to find their sticks first. We looked for sticks as fat as our finger and two the same length (bit of maths there). I started them off by lashing their two sticks together. I used square lashing but any knot and tight wrapping around the crossover of sticks will work. Here is a little video to show you how

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4s_wrGKS7Uo&feature=youtu.be

As I lashed two sticks together I wondered if anyone knew which letter this looked like. One of the older children called out knowing it was X, one of the other children chipped in "x marks the spot!". We play a lot of pirates, making treasure maps, reading pirate stories and hunting for treasures in the forest!

The children explored the different yarns and string available, feeling the textures with their fingers and choosing which colours they wanted to use. If you don't have sticks, pencils or lolly sticks work just as well.

All the while their little fingers were grappling with the tricky weaving, their concentration on hand eye coordination was impressive. They cut their wool and had a go at tying knots.

BUT...their finished rainbows did not look like mine. This is about the process of weaving, not an end product. It's about fun, having a go, making something individual, don't worry if you get in a tangle, tie the wool off to a stick and get a new piece and carry on. If everyone has to produce a perfect rainbow it won't be fun anymore, in fact who says yours has to be a rainbow, maybe it will be a frisbee or a hat?! Maybe your child will take the sticks and wool and have a completely different idea of what to do with them?

As always the key is have fun, don't stress about what it looks like, process over product, just enjoy being.



Happy weaving.