

I wonder what we can't see?

Each child from Surbiton Hill Nursery School contributed to the animation through making characters, sounds, and sensory exploration. Below are some of their highlights.

Morning: Group 1, Green Class

Shania likes to explore through taste, and made a tongue (which she licked), and later added a feather, which the tongue is shown licking in the animation. What a creative mind!

Elliot enjoyed manipulating the dough. He splatted it on the floor “splot” and trod on one side before flipping and trading on the other to make an interesting pattern and texture, which we all found fascinating!

Otto experimented with mixing the two doughs, ripping, pulling, splatting, squashing. He concluded by combining two of his favourite experiments together and adding a feather hat. Very stylish!

Kazim experimented with the dough in a number of different ways and created several different creatures in quick succession, while making sound effects. Performance art! Balls became sparkly cubes, and a worm transformed into a large monster with many eyes. Kazim also loves numbers and began making these out of dough. He was shown how an eye could add character which he wasn't sure about at first, removed them, but changed his mind and requesting and adding two eyes as he made each number.

Casper enjoyed sensory play and created a sculpture from dough, a cocktail stick, a feather and a sparkly pipe-cleaner which he manipulated into different positions. Casper likes to explore through taste, and munching on plants, so this was made to be a characteristic shared by his creature!

Maryam likes to explore textures and make things spin. She was particularly drawn to the lolly sticks and bubbles, and spent much time twisting these. We also played with the feather “atishoo” which she really enjoyed, giving lots of good eye contact and direction. The sounds and actions of each of these activities were used in the animation.

Morning: Group 2, Supported Place

Gabe is a brilliant bouncer and immediately spotted the potential of the bubble wrap, doing lots of jumping to create popping sounds, and counting down to jumps for us to sound record. This started quite a trend, with his classmates joining in. He was also drawn to the large sheets of coloured acetate, moving around the room with each to explore different viewpoints, turning them in front of his face. Bubble wrap, popping, and flapping acetate are included in the animation.

Zander and his favourite dinosaur explored sensory water-themed materials the room, recording some songs. We had lots of fun playing together!

Max also loved the bubble wrap, and in addition to creating some great popping sounds, used lots of great language and story development “popping”, “gigantic river”, wrapping himself into a “cocoon”. He also grew attached to a little duck toy, playing with this across his river and around the room “quack, quack, quack”. The duck is spotted with Gabe's acetate in the animation.

Samar examined his tray of alphabet magnets, picking up each in order and making the phonic sound. When presented with googly eyes repeated this process, this time positioning a pair of eyes on each as he did so! He later did some squiggly water drawings which became one of the river backdrops.

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Afternoon: Group 3, Supported Place

Gwen created a “knobbly ball” character is called Eilish, who has a feathered head, wings and lives in a tree and makes an incredibly cawing sound, which you will hear in the animation!

Codi had great fun making a (very noisy!) boat with (big) Max and creating watery pictures which formed part of our background scenery. He was also very interested in the sound recording process and wanted to see how it worked.

Aysel was our chef of the day “Mmmmm” and made a cake of coffee and sabe flavour, biscuits, a golden apple (alas, all destroyed), along with “Tiny Happy My Little Pony Fish” named “Thea, Maya, Casa, and Ian” who evolved very quickly and grew eyes! You can see some of her pieces on display here. She also contributed to the drawing.

Stuti loved the bubbles in all forms – wrap, foam, ‘frogspawn’ and blowing, which formed much our river background. We played bubble, bubble, pop and recorded sound. We had lots of fun playing together and only got a little bit soapy!

Ffion made the wonderfully named, and roaring “Eyes Beast”. We think that it’s friendly, just like her, and only looks ferocious!

Billie was also drawn to the eyes, and made an “Eye Moon” to look down on us. Her moon “lives on a beach, eating insects (beetles)”. What an unusual life! She added some more snacks for it on her collaborative drawing with Aysel and Codi.

Dougie enjoys small world play and created a dough pond and river bank for a frog to “leap” between and “wiggly snake” which he manipulated into different positions. He is also a huge lover of apples and helped us to document the demolition of one of his snacks “munch, munch, munch”!

Afternoon: Group 3, Green Class

Ryan became good pals with our animator Erin, and together they made numerous ice creams. First from dough, and later from bobbles – Ryan is very polite and said thank-you. As they worked, Ryan, who also has a lovely singing voice, sang a song about his delicious ice cream, and made sound effects for us to include in the animation.

Eliza must also have been feeling hungry, as she made a tasty orange and “nice cream” (not ice cream) from orange dough.

Anthony Likes water play and twirling fabrics, and played splashing before making river motions with the blue ribbon, which you will see splashing through the animation!

Adelia made sparkles creatures and more nice cream. She enjoys sensory exploration and did lots of playing with the ‘frogs spawn’, making “Spot” and “splish” sounds. She began instructing us to ‘ready, steady...’spot”!

Ever Reign who preferences water textures, enjoyed playing with the ‘frogspawn’ alongside Adelia. It became very gloopy, but we had lots of fun, and the contents of our tray and noises are used as background in the animation.

Thank-you for letting us into your worlds. We had lots of fun meeting you all and getting creative together!