

Woodland Schools - Reception

Animal homes - 04.10.16



The children worked well in small groups, exploring the woods using their nature trail sheets. They were quick to point out to each other what they had found and cross referenced it to their sheet. I asked them to see how many things they could find that weren't on the sheet. Francis – I found a baby spider. Isla – I found a pine cone. We talked about the differences between acorns and pine cones. She realised it was an acorn. Georgia – I found a beech nut. Oliver – look at the mushrooms. Josh – an animal has nibbled this acorn.



Josh - I've got animal feed (beech nuts) for the birds. Pearl - beech nuts come from beech trees. She then found a beech tree for me.



Reception joined in well with the animal homes song and had obviously listened well as they remembered lots of the names of the homes. James - fox den. Francis - bee hive. Isla - badger set. Oliver - birds nest. Josh - rabbit burrow.

Pearl - it's got loads of legs. I asked her if it was a centipede or a millipede. She remembered it was millipede.



'Look at all those little holes. I think they are mouse houses.'



The children enjoyed talking about autumn and the different seasons. James – Animals get angry in autumn and winter because it's cold. Georgia – there is a change in different colours. Isla J – leaves fall in autumn because it's windier and colder. Pearl – she knew that it was called hibernating when animals go to sleep. 'Hedgehogs hibernate.' Ella – is it August? She found it funny when she realised she'd muddled August and autumn. 'They sound the same!' Scarlett – trees and plants need water, sun and air to grow. The leaves fall in autumn because there isn't much sun. Josh – little creatures will think it is cold but big animals don't really have homes.

William found a good v shape in a tree stump and was pushing a log forwards and backwards in it. 'Oliver can you help me please?' I asked him what he was doing. I'm welding. I asked him what that was. He wasn't sure. When I explained what it was he decided he wasn't welding. 'I'm sharpening my tools.'



Isla J focused for a long time by herself making an animal home. She was very proud to show it when she'd finished.

The children enjoyed working together to make animal houses. Isla - If people all help together then it will be easier. Pearl - I'm doing a mouse house. Inside a mouse house they like to have sticks so they can nibble them. Scarlett took the lead when carrying a very long stick. 'come on everyone we need someone at the front and in the middle. Quickly now. Not too quickly down the hill, I can't keep up.'

Josh - I liked making the animal dens because they have cosy things in them.

William - I liked making the dens because I was making a ramp for the spiders to go down fast.

Oliver - I like everything because I like it here in the woods.

Isla - I like making the spider's web because it is fun.

Pearl - I like making the spider's web because I just did.

Scarlett - I liked making the animal dens because I made a squirrels den and I made it cosy and I made a ladder for the spiders.

Georgia - I like making dens for the animals because it is fun.

James - I liked making my den because Isla helped me.

Isla J - I enjoyed making my den because I enjoyed wrapping the string round it.

Francis - I liked making a speedier bridge because they can go across with their babies and it was fun making it.

Ella - I liked making the animal houses because I liked putting string on everything.