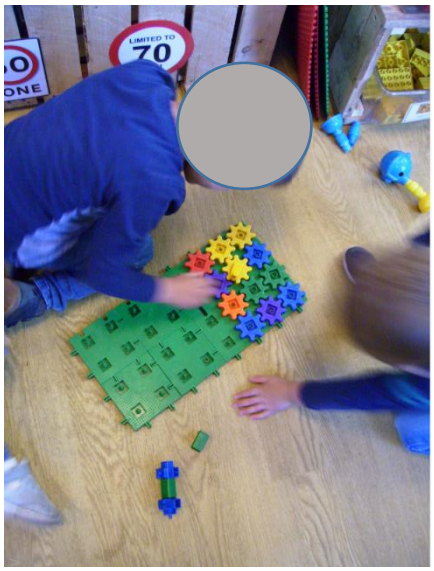
April 2021

Exploring construction kits



In Blue room we have been exploring all the different types of construction kits in nursery. Each day the children have had the opportunity to use a variety of kits and investigate how they work. They have explored kits such as lazy baby, mobilo and stickle bricks.

The children have been finding how these kits work and problem solving such as how to use the connectors for the mobilo and how to connect the gears to make them rotate. The adults have demonstrated different skills and techniques in relation to the way the kits connect together.

We have added picture cards so the children can follow instructions to build as well as asking them to decide what they would like to make before starting to build.

The children have also had the opportunity to take photos and record what they have built and to display their models on the window sill.

Links to the EYFS

Speaking

Uses words as a powerful means of widening contacts, sharing feelings, experiences and thoughts

Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what has happened and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences

Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events

Physical Development

Shows control in holding and using jugs to pour, hammers, books, mark making tools

Uses one handed tools and equipment

Handles tools, objects construction materials and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.

Exploring and using media and materials

Experiment with blocks, colours and marks

Begin to construct, stacking blocks vertically and horizontally, making enclosures and creating spaces

Joins construction pieces to build and balance

Constructs with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.

M choose to use the Duplo bricks he uses his right hand to collect the bricks he needs. He joins them together by pressing down to connect them together.

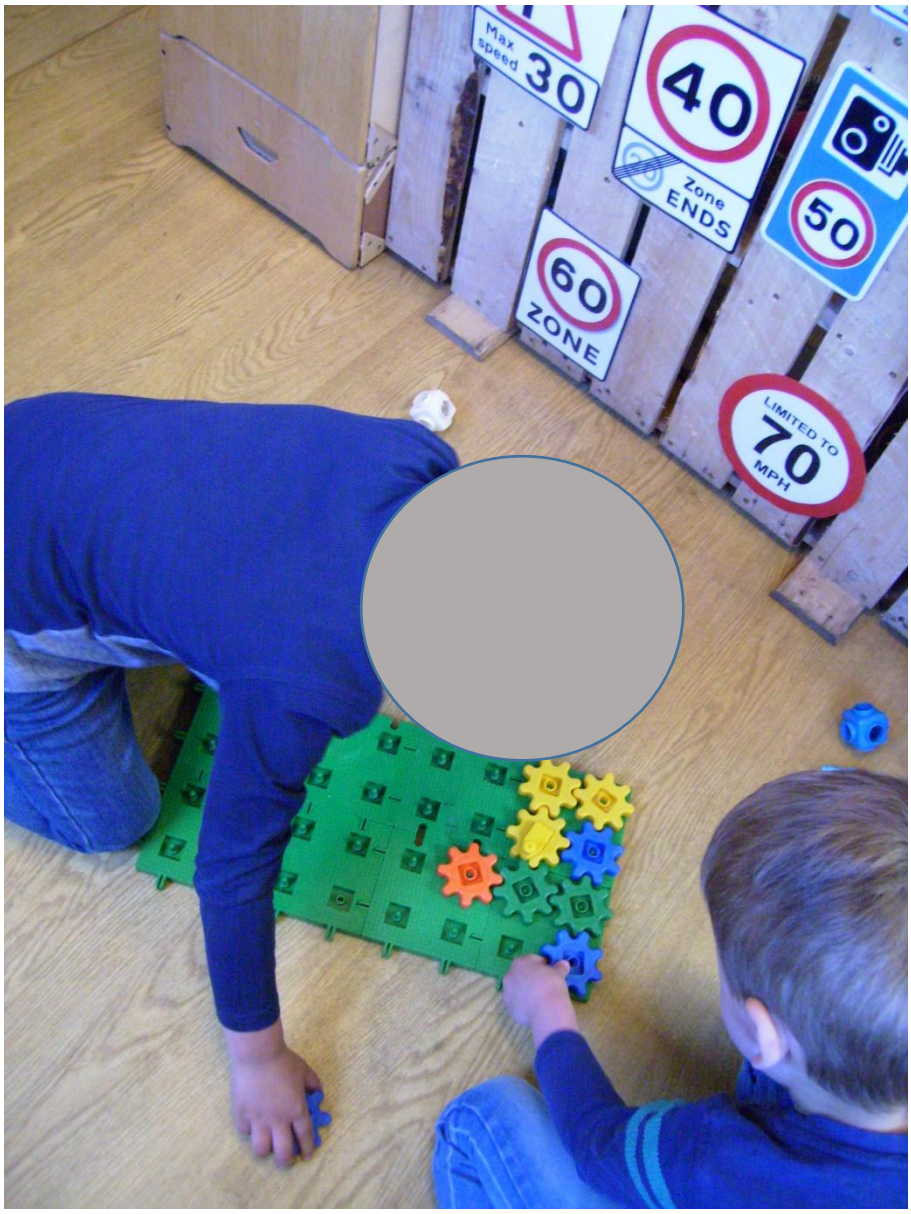
J uses the stickle bricks, he starts with the yellow base board and adds his green uprights, he experiments with which is the best way to make them stand up . He then connects the smaller red pieces to his uprights sideways on. He carefully places the bricks so the stand independently and don't fall off the board. He places one yellow square at the edge of the board.

R uses lots of different stickle brick pieces which he fills his board with, when asked by the adult what he has made, **R** replies that he has made a house. He add lots of pieces to the base board, and experiments by stacking lots of the different sized circles on top of each other.

"**Look what I've made** "**R** says to his friend.

"That's a nice house" says **J**

"**Put your house down next to mine**" **R** says again to his friend.



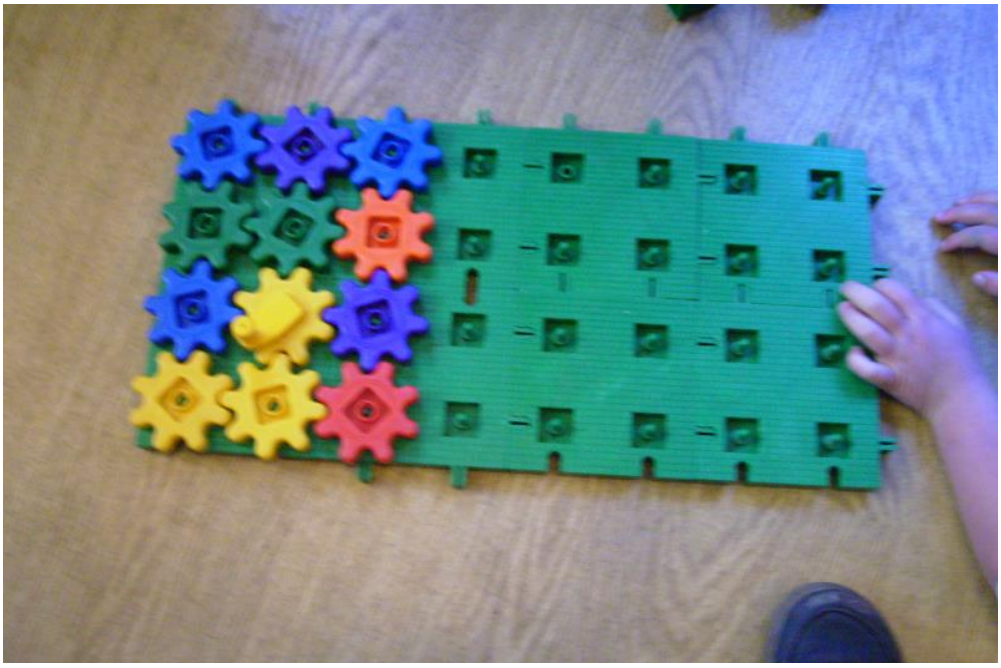
K and **J** work together to explore how to make the gears rotate on their board. They are very curious to find out how the gears attach to each other making them all move. They spend time problem solving what they need to do and are highly motivated especially when they realise that each time another cog is connected it rotates. Eventually the whole board is filled with connected cogs.

K said **"look at our board"**.

The adult asks tell me about what you have done.

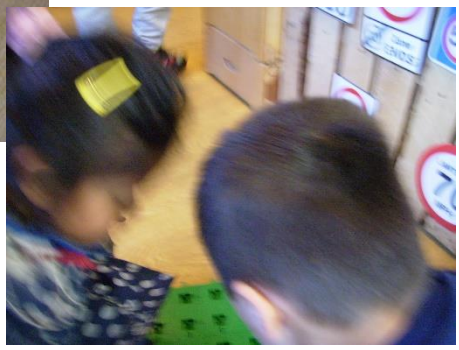
K says **"we just connected them all together"**.

Whilst building **K** and **J** took photos of their work together.



K took a photo of the cogs to show how connecting them together made them rotate.

J took these photos while another child explored what happened when they rotated the cogs



E watches other children using the construction kits, she is really interested in using the camera to take photos of the different models.

E decides she wants to use the camera, the adult encourages her to build her own model, she decides to use a selection of solid bricks which she stacks on top of each other. Once she has stacked about 6 bricks she asks the adult for her turn.

The adult supports **E** to hold the camera and take her own photo of her work.

A K uses the Duplo to build, he fills the whole of his board with the bricks and add some people. He approaches the adult and smiles showing them what he has built. "They're **playing, he's jumping off inside the pool** "he says. He then goes on to show the other adults in the room what he has built.

B uses the Bauplay, he joins lots of different pieces together. He knows he needs to use the nuts and bolts together to fix on his wheels to connect them. **"Look Nicola at what I've made, its super long"** as he holds up his model.

"It's a big long bike".

How does the bike work asks the adult?

"It fastens up, I use them" as he points to the bolts.

"It's got lots of wheels". He then chooses more connector rods and another nut.

"Can you get this one I don't like little ones"

"N I'm going to make it even longer" as he connects more parts of his model.

H joins some of the Bauplay together and says **"I've made an aeroplane"** as he holds up his model. The adult helps Haris to fix the nuts onto the bolts of his model.

H explores the Bauplay, with support she puts the long screw through the wheels, the adult shows **H** how to use the bolts to make her model stay together.

L decides she would like to use the mobilo, she chooses all the same shapes blocks which she stacks on top of each other but it falls over. The adult shows her connectors which help the tower to stay fixed .She then goes on to use the connectors and makes her own tall tower.

E uses the mobilo, she fastens a connector to one of the shapes

"**I've done it**" she says. She picks up a block with a bell

"It's got a bell inside it" she comments. She balances the bell on top of another shape, she then picks up all her model which wobbles and fall apart. The adult then helps **E** to connect her blocks together, **E** then undoes what the adult has shown her and has a go herself.