April 2021

# Investigating Birds and Living Eggs

Our children have been really interested in our core story 'The Odd Egg'. The story linked with the children's interest in animals and with us receiving the living eggs later in the half term.

The story had several birds in which the children enjoyed talking about. They noticed how their eggs were different sizes so we began to talk about size. This also led us to find out more about the birds and look at how they are similar and different.

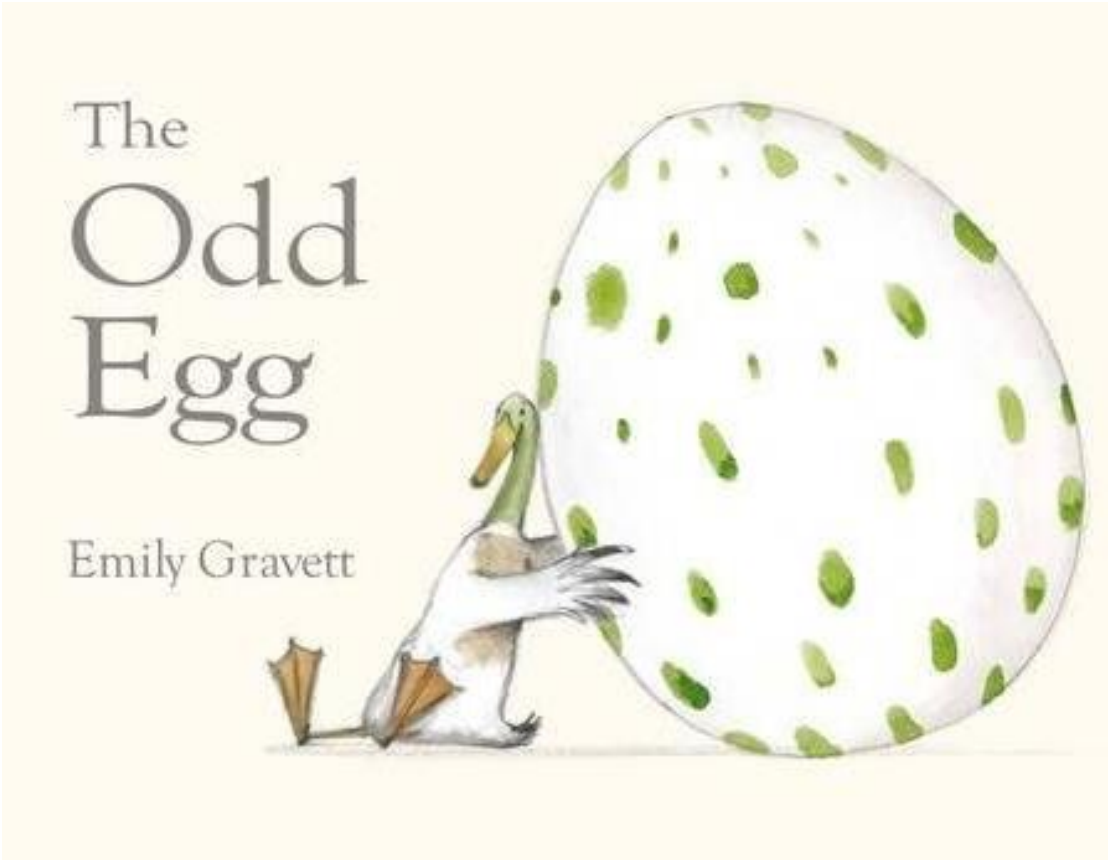
The book inspired AA to paint the owl, parrot and robin from the story over a period of a few days. Several children represented the chicks and eggs by pencil drawing and using the whiteboards.

During group time were learnt more information about the chicks from books including the lifecycle from egg to chicken. We learnt special words such as hen, rooster, incubator, comb and rattle.

Children had the opportunity to observe the eggs and learn about how they were kept warm in the incubator. Some lucky children even got to see one of the eggs hatch!

We observed the chicks as they hatched and noticed how they were 'wet' at first and that the males and females were different colours. Once they were a day old the chicks moved into the brooder box where they could eat and drink. Some of the children helped with cleaning the chicks out, they changed their bedding and gave them food and fresh water.

As the chicks got older the children learnt how to care of the chicks and they were able to hold them in the classroom. We talked about how the chicks had changed over time. We noticed they had grown and how their wings were developing and changing to feathers.




After becoming familiar with the story we could recall the different birds.

**"Flamingo, the baby flamingo is not pink!"- BF**

**"Duck"- ES**

**"Owl"- ZR**

**"Parrot" – JH and AA**

We went to visit the chicks as two of them had now hatched. HU was very excited to see them. He commented **"They're so cute, I got eggs at home!"**

We visited the chicks every day to see if anymore had hatched. We talked about how the incubator kept the chicks and eggs warm. We noticed how some of the eggs were cracking. E commented **"Shh they cracking, they beautiful"**.

We looked at information posters about the chicks. ES pointed to the chick and said **"Baby chick"**.

KS said **"There's two of them can't wait to see all of them wow they are pecking".**
**"They yellow is trying to get away".**

AR said "Chicken" KS replied "No it's a chick".

Together we listened carefully to the sounds the chicks were making. AH said **"I can hear a baby chick".**

A-K said **"We never seen them before baby chicks."** He looked at the eggs and asked **"Why those not hatching?"** he then pointed to the chicks **"Oh they so cute!"**

**"I seen that egg it cracking out, look".**

RA noticed the chick was pecking at an egg.

He commented **"Yellow one trying to open the egg".**

HH requested to see the chicks at group time **"I want to see eggs"**.

He sat down in front of the brooder box and pointed **"Chicks"**.

**"That one fly" as the chick was flapping its wings.**

We have looked at information books during group time and the children have learned new vocabulary such as Hen, Rooster, comb, wattle and incubator.

"What does the baby chick look like?"

**"Small"** AN commented.

We discussed how the chicks' feathers changed overtime and as they dried the feather began to be fluffy.

"How do you know the chick is wet?"

**"Feathers flat"** AA said.

What do you think the chicks drink?

**"Water"**

"What is the special name for the box the chick are kept in?" LI said **"Incubator"**.

Five of our chicks hatched, we took the brooder box into the classroom for the children to observe and hold the chicks.

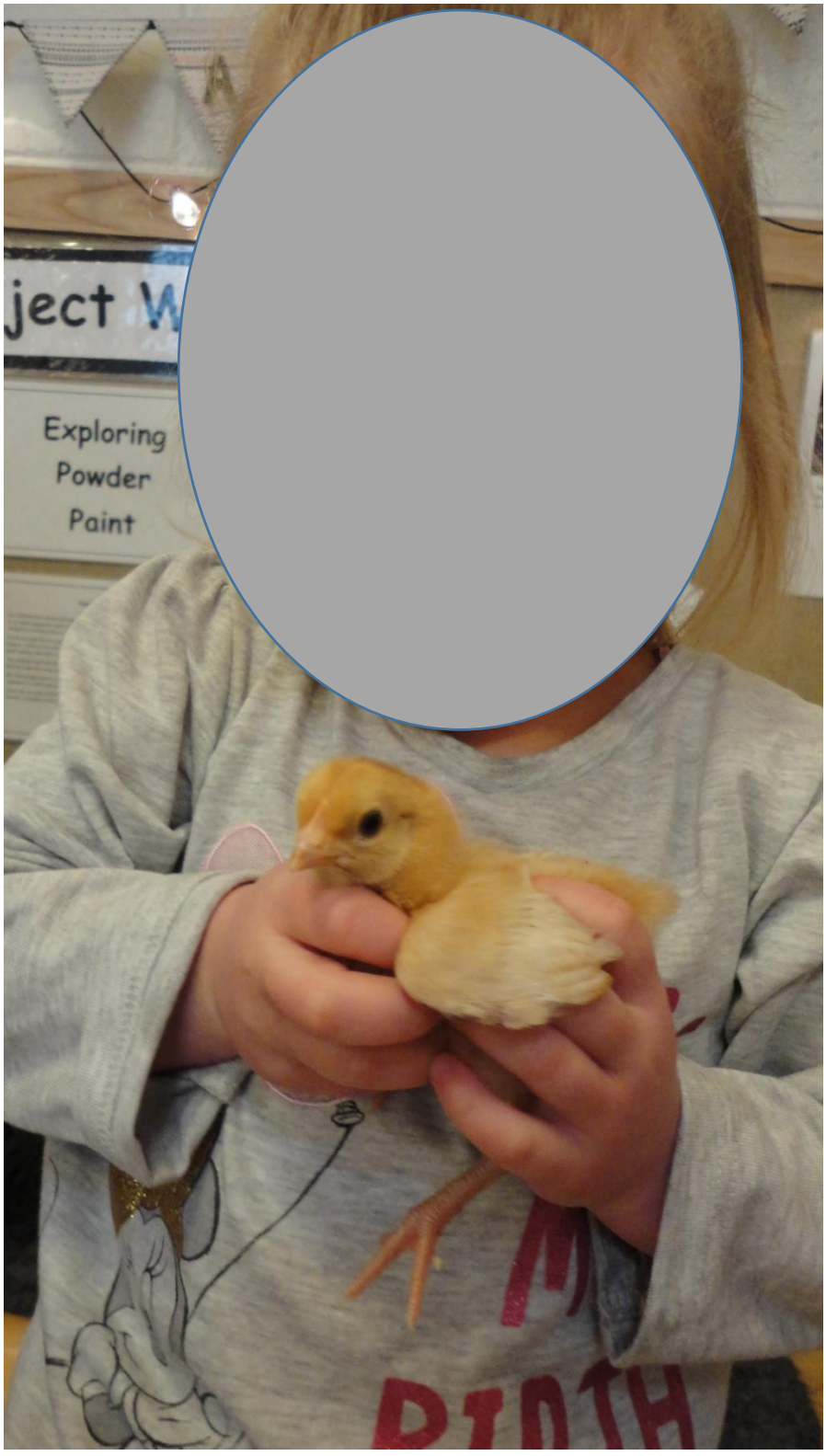
**"Hello"** JS says as she looks in the brooder box.

JS was able to hold the chicks independently.

**"I love holding chickens, I really like the eyes".**

**"I held a brown one. I'm going to tell my Mummy and Daddy...My favourite chickens".**

We carefully held our newly hatched chicks.



L is holding the chick with support, he confidently strokes the chick on its back and comments **"It's very nice and pretty"**.

AR is looking at the chicks in the brooder box.

**"I like the chick- they're so good".**

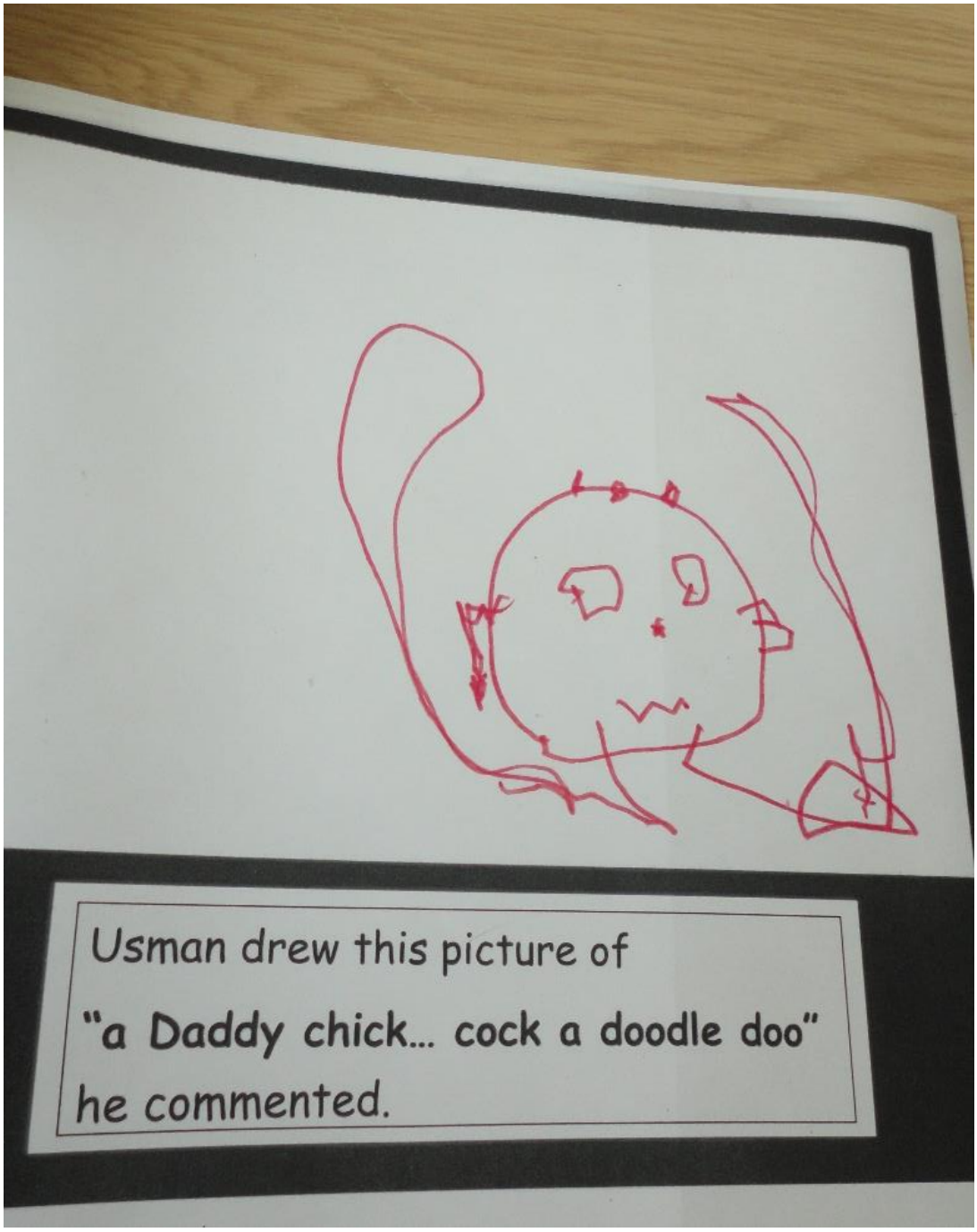
**"They're eating by themselves...they're big chicks now they're feeding".**

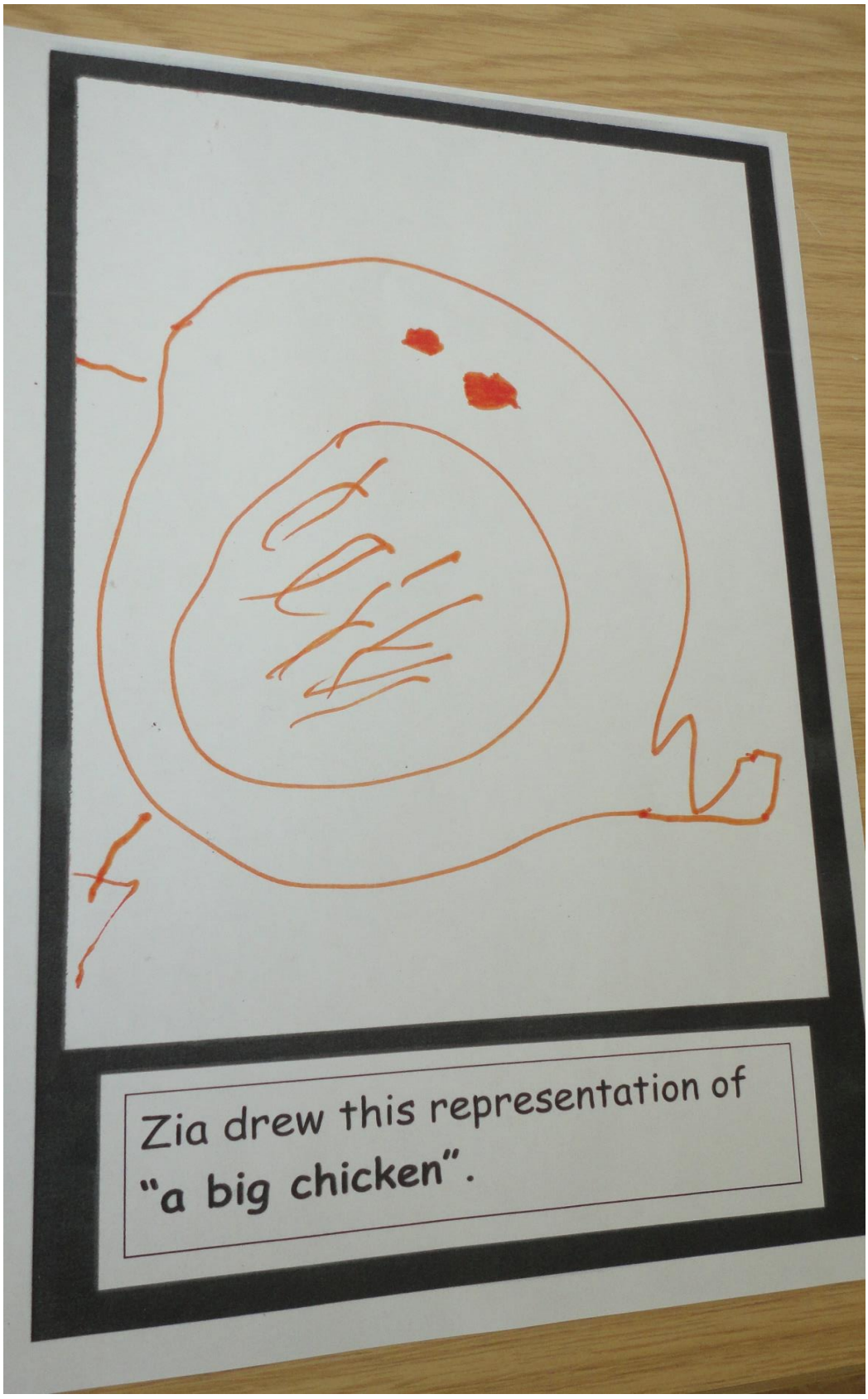
BF was confident in taking the chick out of Cassies' hand and holding it himself.

We loved holding the chicks and taking care of them.

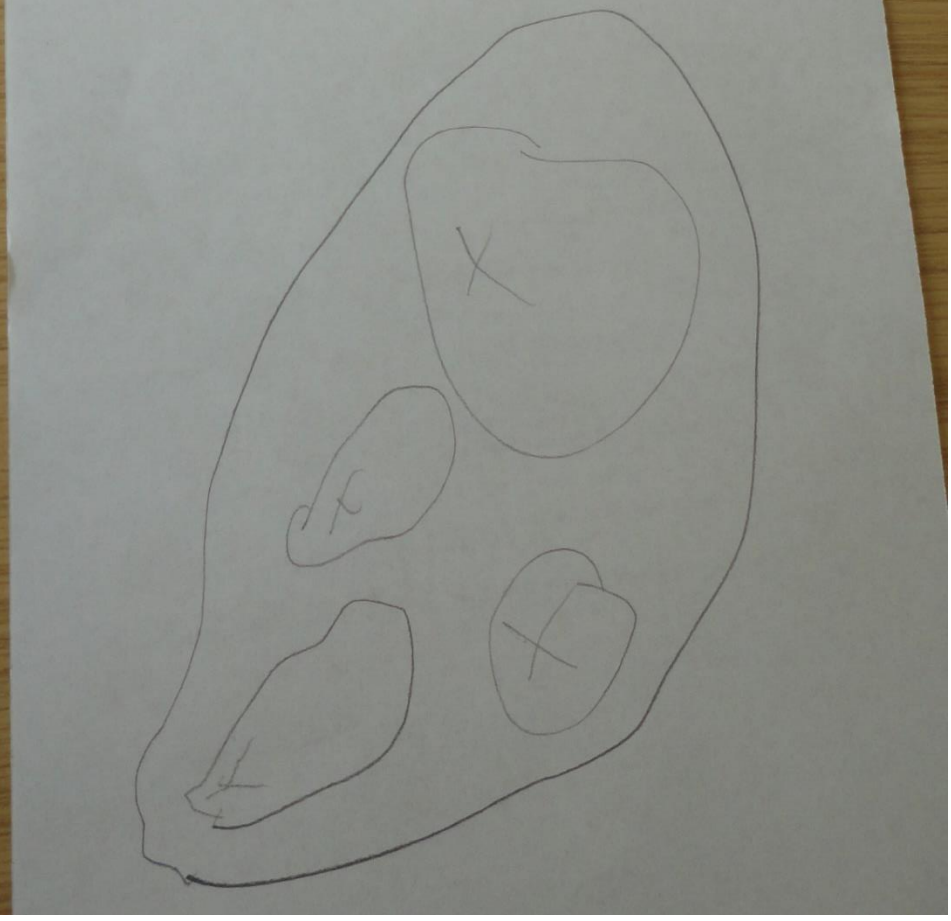
Some children independently drew their own pictures.

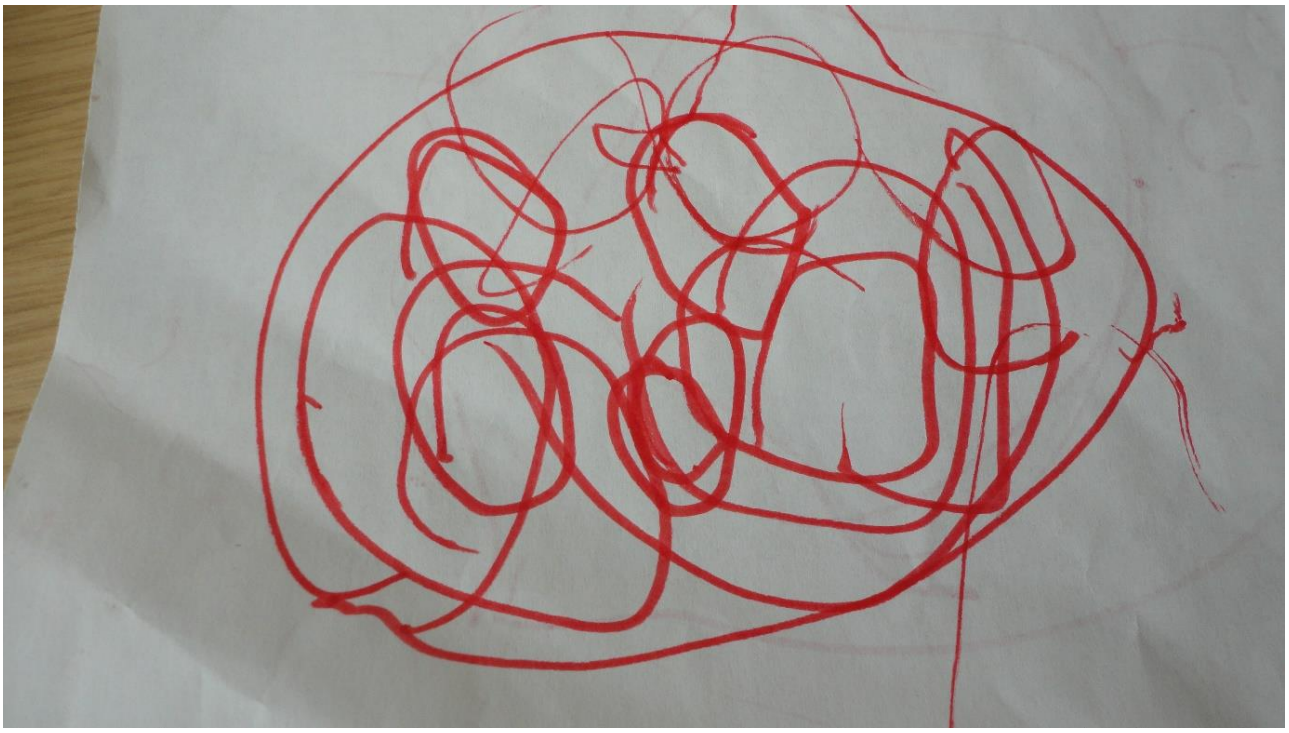
Look at our fantastic drawings of the chicks.



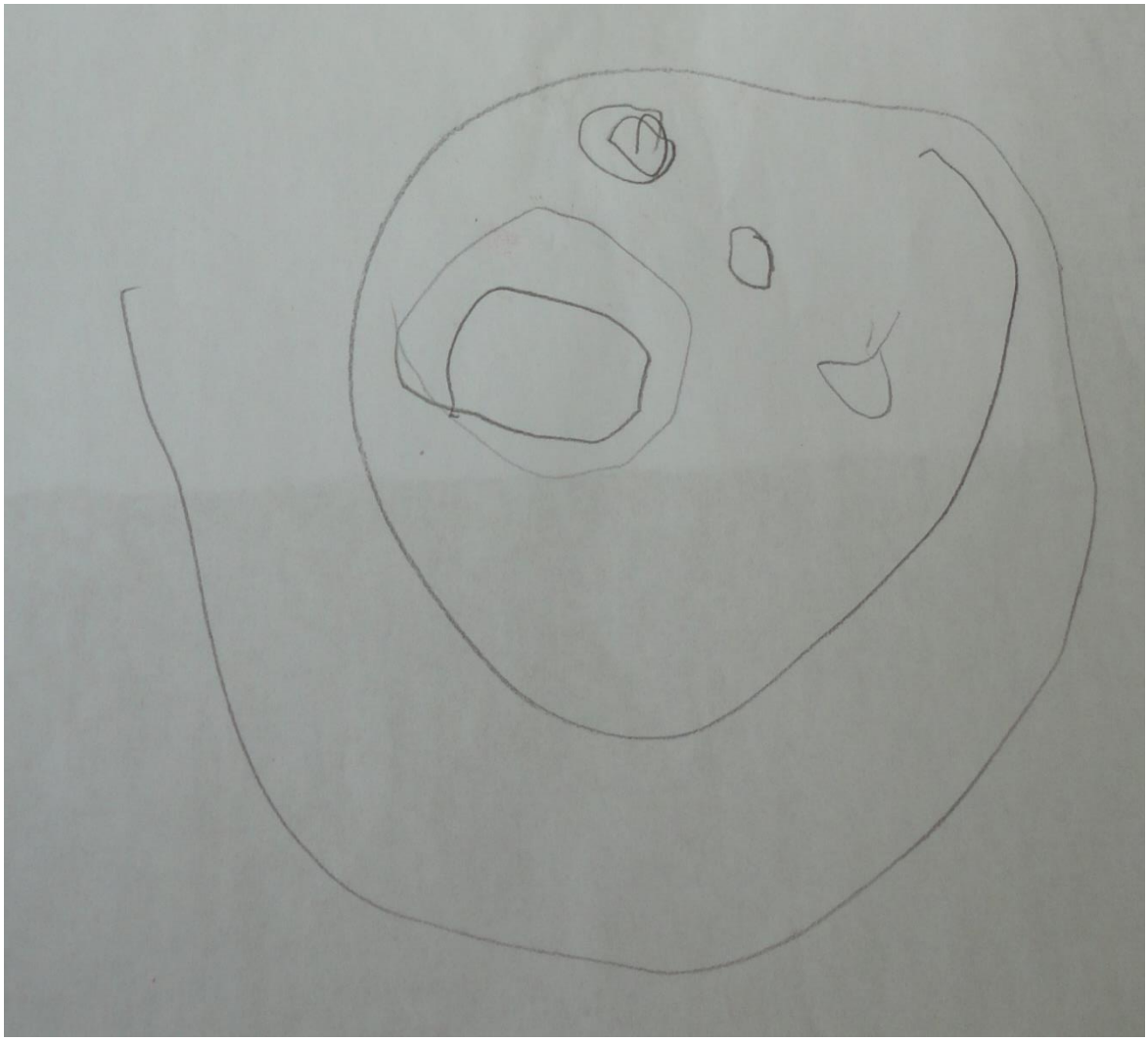

Zia drew this representation of
"a big chicken".

"Incubator... the eggs it got cracks... four eggs".





A drew this representation of the eggs inside the incubator.



Z drew this representation of the eggs inside the incubator.