Investigating Pumpkins

October 2020

We added some pumpkins to the mud kitchen, however the children had other ideas of how to use them. They began by pushing and carrying them, which sparked a conversation about how heavy they were and which ones were bigger than others.

A small group of children then began to investigate what happens when the pumpkins were rolled down the ramp.

The children soon discovered that the more they rolled and crashed into the fence they soon developed cracks which allowed them to look inside.

The children were fascinated by the seeds inside, which were quickly scattered over the floor. We discussed what we could do with the seeds and one child then started to plant them in the soil.

AA, MC and UI explored the pumpkins by rolling them down the ramp. As the pumpkins rolled fast and hit the fence at the bottom the children ran after them and began to giggle. Eventually, one of the pumpkins developed a crack. AA was really interested in what was inside, she began to pull the pumpkin apart. When the pumpkin finally broke in two she shook all the seeds on to the floor.

BF enjoyed rolling the pumpkin along the playground floor. He then picked up the pumpkin and ran to the top of the hill. As he pushed the pumpkin down he watched and said **"Wow, really fast!"**

EG came to investigate the pumpkin and felt it with her fingers. She then spent a short time rolling the pumpkin on the grass.

HA spent a long time rolling the pumpkins down the hill.

FR spent a long time carry the pumpkin round, **"its heavy"** she says.

JH saw the broken pumpkin on the floor he asked **"how did we break the pumpkin"**.

He then noticed a group of children dropping the remaining pumpkins onto the floor.

"**Wow baby seeds**" says FR. As she collects all the seeds into the container.

JS looked carefully at the pumpkins and said "**there all wet"**. The adult asked if she knew where the seeds had come from.

JS thought for a little while and then the adult picked up the broken pumpkin and together we had a look inside the broken pumpkin "can you see the seeds left inside" says the adult, JS looked carefully.

JS picked up the seeds and then began to plant them in the garden.

"I just tided up and put them away".