September/ October 2020

Investigating African Land Snails

Some of the children in nursery have been curious to find creatures in our outdoor environment. This led us to introduce our African Land Snails who normally live in the corridor, to enable the children to have a closer look. Some of the children talked about seeing snails in their garden and we talked about what they like to eat and how they felt. We also looked to see how the snails moved and what body parts they have. We washed their shells with brushes and talked about how the children got clean. The children were interested in the snails coming out and going back inside their shells and noticed if they touched their bodies they would go back inside. We looked at information books and the story 'Snail Trail' by Ruth Brown. We also talked about the snails having a spiral shell and we drew spiral pictures.

Project Work

Watch it Grow
Snail
ail Trail
Brown

The Tiger Who
Came
to Tea

E and Y gently brushed the snails to clean them **"Look"** said Y. We talked about how the children get washed, **"Me bath"** replied Y.

A commented **"They're very slimy…wakey, wakey…you have to be very careful, we don't want to dead it…mines waking up, wakey, wakey, it's waking up slowly".**

"He's coming out…munch munch…he's eating it" commented A.

A crouched down to observe carefully. She commented she was **"watching"**. She continued **"I didn't know school had snails before"**.

Z washed the snail and watched it as it moved across the tray **"Look it's walking"**.

E, A, J and B carefully used a knife to cut up cucumber for the snails.

“I saw them in my garden…I saw one on my roof” commented J. H replied **“I saw them in my garden too”.**

"I saw animals…I like it" commented E.

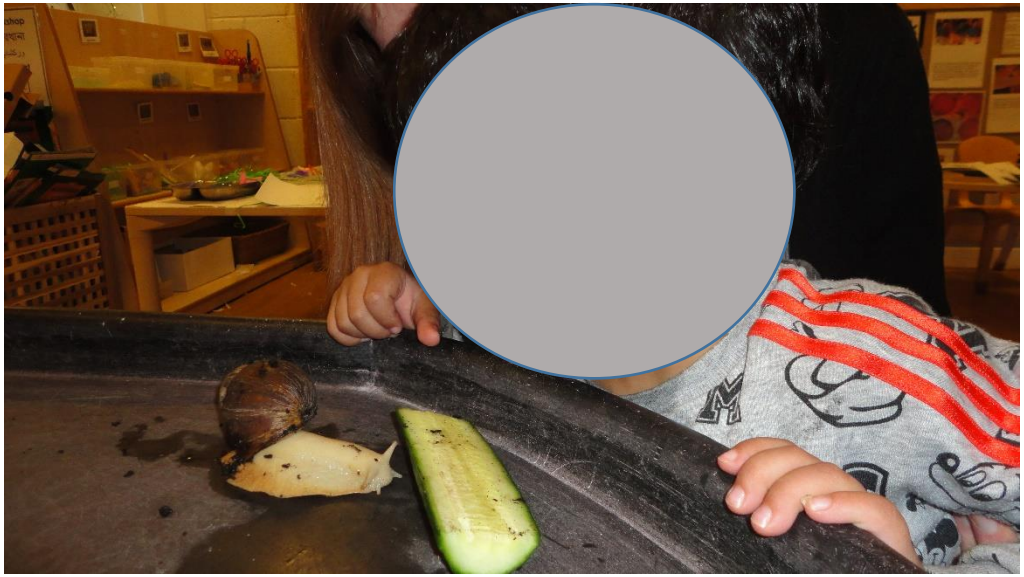
"He's scared of me" said M when she noticed the snail go back inside it's shell.

B noticed and commented.

"That snail just ate a bit of cucumber, I saw it…the snails are moving very slow".

It's hiding in its shell" remarked L. Then she noticed the snail coming out of its shell and commented **"That one's open"**.

"It's coming bigger" commented J as the snail comes out of it shell.



Y is looking at the snails **"See snail…eating it"**.

"Look it's moving…he's eating" said Z.

L was looking at two of the snails and held up two fingers to represent how many. Z then said to L **"Are they eating?" "Cos they're friends"** replied L.

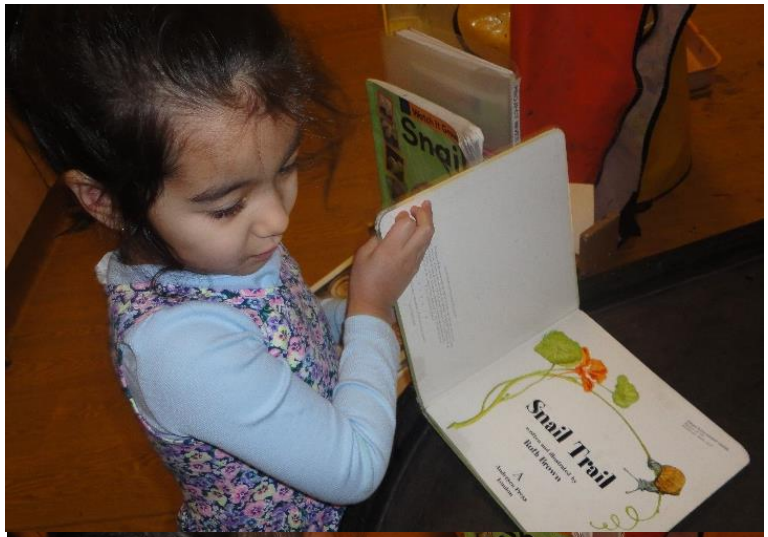
L replies "Coz they're friends".

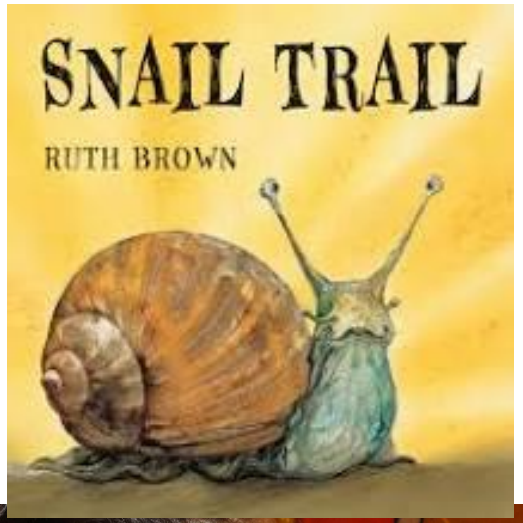
"Oh" says B as he sees the snail's eyes on stalks. Then he notices he cannot pick the snail up because it is sticking to the tray **"this one's stuck"** he says.

B picked up one of the snails and looked carefully at its white body and commented **"I've seen this one before"**.

F was confident to pick up the snails and group them together. She confidently counted them to three and gathered up their food into a pile. She watched them carefully as they ate.

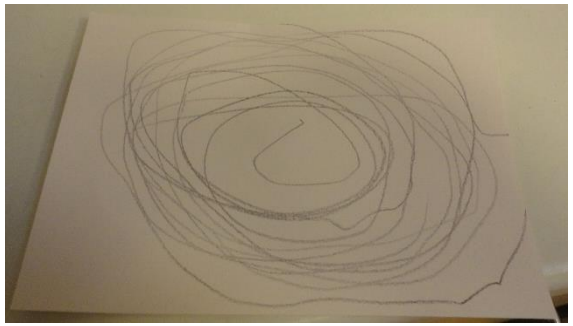
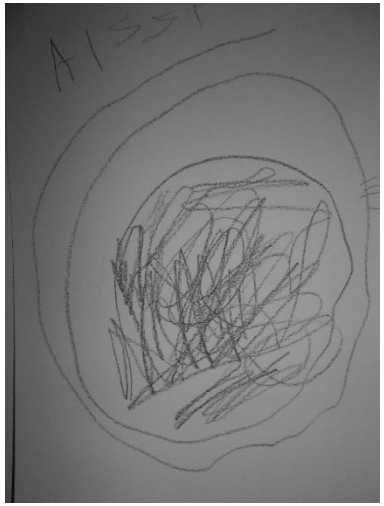
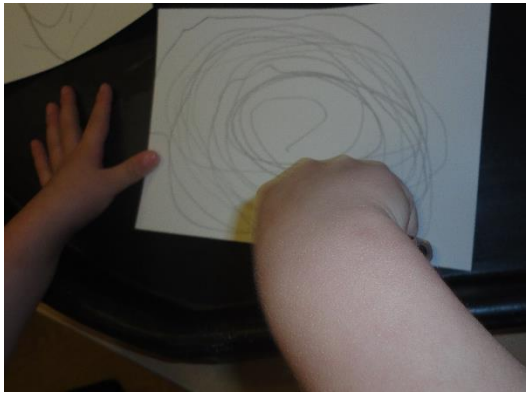
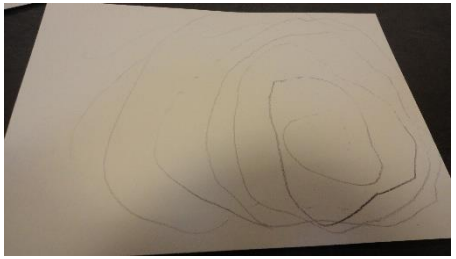
We read a story book about a snail and also looked at information books.





The children were interested in taking their own photographs. A, A and J took lots of photographs and several children had a go at using a camera.

JURASSIC

Project Work
Grow

We noticed that snails have spiral shells and we looked at other spiral images. A and B drew lots of spirals.