

ARCHAEOLOGISTS



A strong group interest in bones earlier in the year, resulted in a gift of a deer and pig head. We buried these at the forest farm to ensure they were well decomposed before we could examine them closely. Recently Lewis discovered one of the bones poking out of the ground. This sparked some curiosity about what lay beneath. It was the perfect time to begin our investigation!

The deer head had already been unearthed by the Friday group, so the Monday group was keen to have their turn at being archaeologists. What a treasure hunt! We were not sure if we were in the right spot but we persevered, and at last we found the wild pig bones.

Addi, Maisy and Leo stayed to examine the skulls long after everyone else had drifted away. They each experimented fitting together the skulls and jaws

and compared the differences between the animals. We noticed that some of the teeth were missing from the pig's jaw and wondered if they were still buried in the earth. Maisy and Addi continued to dig. There were many false alarms as pieces of light colored wood were exclaimed over then discarded. At last, "I found one!" shouted Maisy holding up a tooth. We tried to fit it in the jaw, noting that the big teeth were at the front and the smaller teeth at the back. We wondered which way up it went; like a jigsaw puzzle we had to try many different possibilities. The long pointy roots went deep down into the jaw and Leo made the connection with how our teeth must grow. Addi continued to dig and soon found a small bone which Leo suggested "might hold the neck up".



My thoughts on the learning here...

We learn and understand best from what we see, touch, and manipulate. Addi, you recognise this and seized the learning opportunities that this novel experience could offer you.

The scientific exploration you took part in today involved observing, predicting and testing. Through this you were developing your problem solving skills, recognition of cause and effect, and organising and classifying.

When we are curious about something new, we want to explore it. Then, while exploring, we experience the joy of discovery. This joy leads to repetition, repetition leads to understanding and understanding leads to confidence. Confidence increases a willingness to act on curiosity and so this positive cycle of learning continues.

Addi, I also have to mention here that I have a deep admiration for the way you handled yourself when the giant spider that we had been admiring on a nearby leaf suddenly ended up on your chest. Although it was quite upsetting you stayed very still while I attempted to gently brush it off. It then fell into your gumboot and still you calmly let me

remove the boot in order to shake it out! Karen and I were so impressed with your bravery!



How can we grow this learning further?

It looks like this interest in bones is being reignited. Recently we looked at a frog skeleton and Maisy's Dad offered to catch and bring in a fish one day. He will then show us how it is filleted, and cook it in order for us to see a fish skeleton. No doubt you will be centre front Addi!

Written by Bridget, November 2015