

Observation of a 2-year old – ‘The struggle’



Turning the dial

Repetition



Struggled to open the microwave. Showed amazing perseverance and tried different approaches.



It didn't fit first time so he tried a different way.



Sitting and waiting for the microwave to 'ding'





J had watched some older children bring a drain-pipe over from the bottom of the garden and prop it up against a tree. He is about half their size but managed to copy what he had seen.



It was amazing to observe as J quietly went about his play. He appeared to be using first hand experiences in his play – turning the dial on the microwave, sitting patiently and waiting for the ding being a brilliant example. He played alone, he was aware of what was happening around him but did not deviate from his focused play. I would say he was deeply involved in his play and was using repetition - ‘wallowing’ in his play. There was so much problem-solving observed - the pan would not fit in the oven (spatial awareness), the door would not open (try different ways) and then on to moving the guttering and getting it to lean up against the tree (again lots of mathematics learning involved). He had the freedom to try things out along with a growing understanding of the possibilities and limitations.

Children deepen their learning through repetition, practice and struggle which is supported by adults.

My reflections – This was a prime example to me about the importance of observing. J did not need me to jump in and interrupt him. He was perfectly capable of solving the problems and the learning that came from it was much richer.