

**“If we really want children to thrive we need to let their connection to nature nurture them.”**

**Claire Warden**



A group of children explored ‘nature’ through an old branch which they found and carried back to the studio as if carrying an important message for others to see. They placed it in the middle of the table and considered what they had found. *Where were its branches? Why was it on the ground? Where were all of its leaves? Are the trees cold and lonely in winter?*

What unfolded was the desire for children to offer empathy to the branch, *it might be cold without leaves. Who would come to this branch now it did not have any leaves?*

Another group were interested in drawing from observing their ‘finds’ outside. This became a larger focus now with their drawings beginning to link to each other’s. With the addition of imagination, a ‘race’ ensued. Who would finish first? The ants or the spiders as they chased each other across the page?