

Inside Outside



*"There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colours are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again."
Elizabeth Lawrence*

The children brought in items from their summer holidays. Seashells, coconut shells and seed pods became provocations for various learning experiences.

The children showed an interest in gathering and collecting natural objects. They brought in gum nut branches, a wasp nest, plant bulb, crystals, rocks, snake skin, Bottle Brushes and other unique natural objects. The collection grew so large that the children curated a 'Museum of Natural Objects' in the studio.

"Space has to be a sort of aquarium that mirrors the ideas, values, attitudes, and culture of the people who live within it" said Loris Malaguzzi. Looking closely at these objects, the children made theories, constructed questions and unpacked their understandings.

They [wasps] live in straws. The stuff that looks like straws. They are not a straw but made of wild paper. It is paper that you find in the wild. I see two shells that have the same stripes. I wonder if they were from the same shells and the waves pulled them apart?

I think that it [bulb] will turn in to a tree and oats will fall on the ground and everyone will take them home and we will make porridge.

As educators it is our responsibility to cultivate a space where children engage with, nurture and sustain the natural world around them. "How the young respond to nature, and how they raise their own children, will shape the configurations and conditions of our cities and homes." Richard Louv

