



# Hazeldene Family Centre

March 2021

Looking Up

Virtual Nature School

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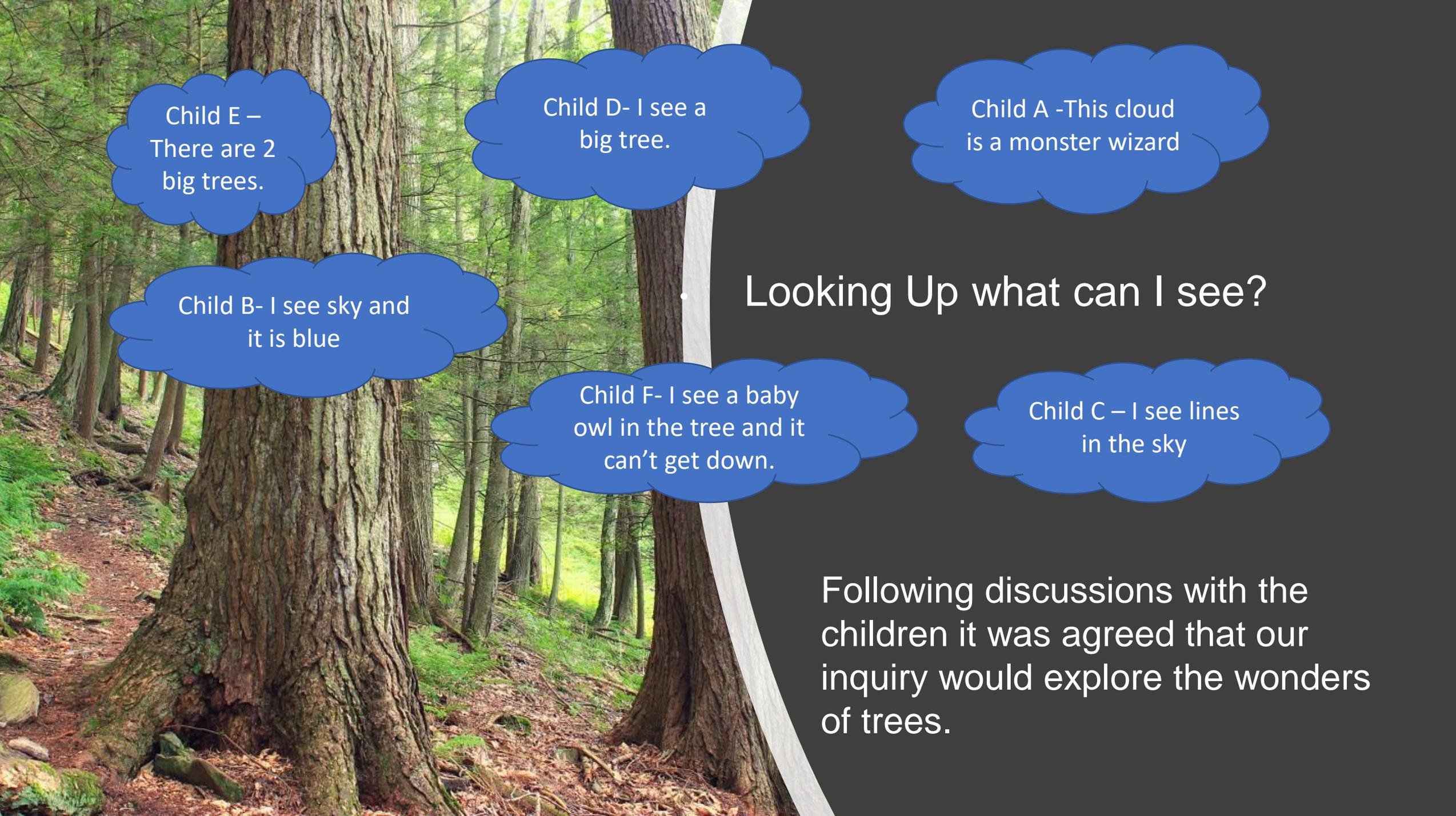
Day 1 Looking Up .

Today the children at Hazeldene Family Centre began looking up.

- Child A – “We looked up in our garden and then we thought it would be a good idea to look up from the grass across the road.”
- Child B- I can see a tree it’s got wee bits on the branches.
- Child H – I can see a cloud it’s a house cloud, I can see all my family too.
- Child L – I see a unicorn shaped cloud and it is rainbow coloured,

Some children have been 'Looking Up' using binoculars and mirrors, in the garden and wood. Interest surrounded the trees, sky, buildings and wildlife, specifically types of trees, colour, weather and the exterior of the nursery (windows, pipes and roof). We looked for things that may have fallen from the tree as the children were particularly interested in the fact that some had no leaves but lots of green moss. We measured twigs in length and spoke about girth. We brought pinecones and sticks back from the forest which later created our own tree through transient art. Some children made their own picture using what they had found, including mud. We also made trees from paper by colouring, cutting and sticking. Discussions took place around what trees need and why (air, leaves, soil, roots, sunlight). One child kept blowing over his paper tree pretending to be the wind.





Child E –  
There are 2  
big trees.

Child D- I see a  
big tree.

Child A -This cloud  
is a monster wizard

Child B- I see sky and  
it is blue

Looking Up what can I see?

Child F- I see a baby  
owl in the tree and it  
can't get down.

Child C – I see lines  
in the sky

Following discussions with the children it was agreed that our inquiry would explore the wonders of trees.



Child A- There are lots of sticks

Child C – My stick looks like a rainbow

Child B – I've found some sticks



Child A– A tree has leaves and branches



Child C– A tree has a big branch at the bottom.

The children chose to work together as a team to design and create their transient art model.

Child B – I like this one because it's the longest.



Child B – Mine is heavy.

Child A – I like this stick , because it's got lots of branches, 1 2 3 4 5 .It's got 5



Child C – This my tree branch and it has 5 sticks on it.

The children drew pictures of the branches they had collected, they explored size, weight, length and quantity.



Child H – I saw a lamp post it's really so tall and thin, it has a light in it that helps you drive and it goes out at night.

Child M – I see a tree.

Child H -I see a cloud, a house cloud with all my family in it and our car too.

Child M- I seen a tree. It has branches but the leaves are on the ground. There is a little house in the tree.

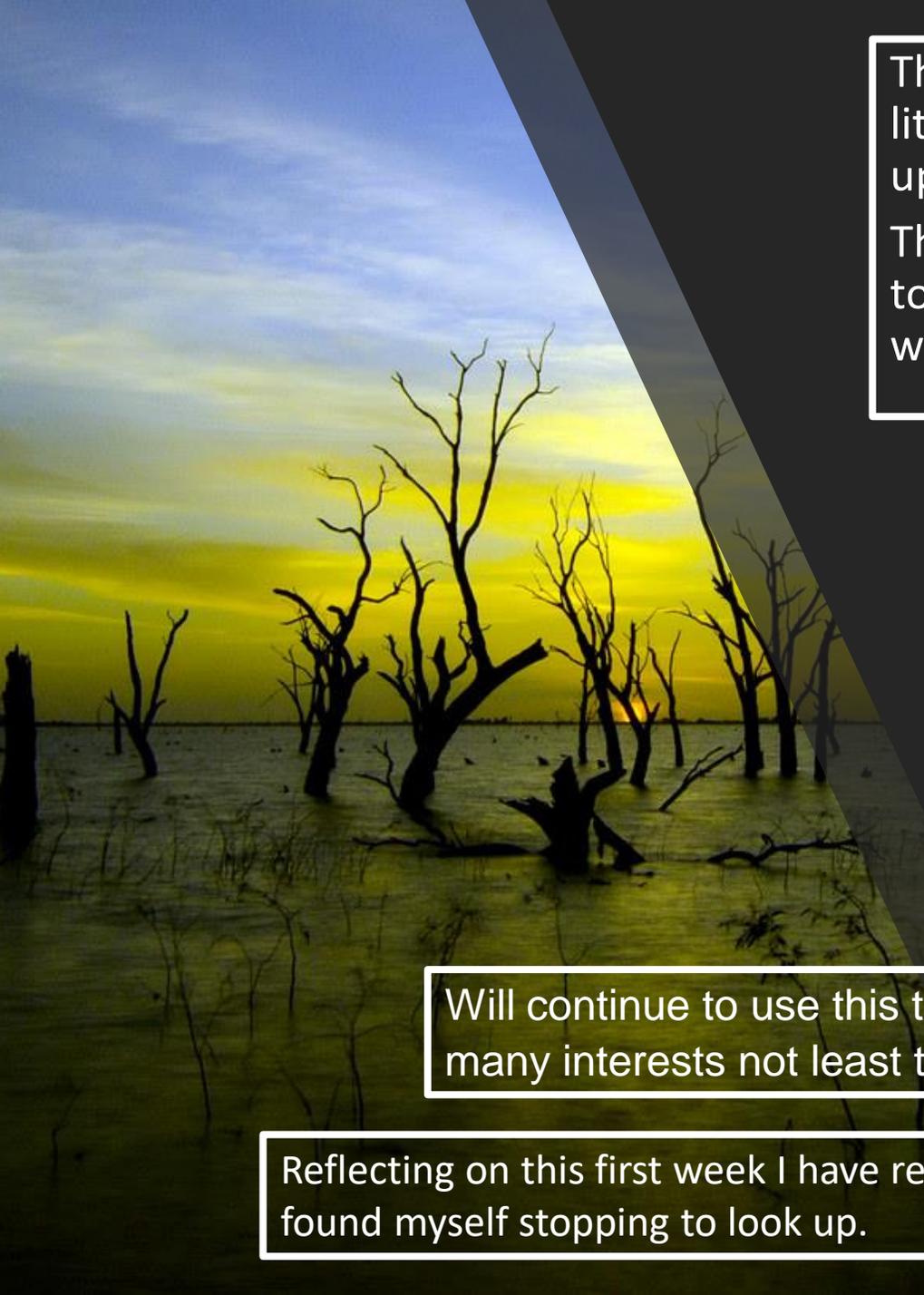
The children used clay and a variety of natural materials to make models of what they have seen when they looked up.



- **Looking Up**

- Reflective account of interactions and conversations with our children.
- Asking children to Look Up!!
- What can you see today?
- “Its different from yesterday, yesterday was blue and today is white”.
- Why do you think its different today?
- “It’s because the sun isn’t out, and the sky is full of clouds all stuck together”.
- What do you think a cloud feels like?
- “soft and fluffy”
- Did you like the blue sky or the white sky?
- “I liked the blue sky; the white sky is sometimes cold”.
- Sometimes you can see patterns and pictures in the clouds, have you ever seen that?
- “Yes!! But not today its all white all over”
- Can you see anything else when you look up?
- “I can see trees and sometimes birds in the sky, but not today!”
- “I can see the top of the nursery, it’s very high up.





The children were very excited to begin their inquiry ,it took a little time for everyone to slow down and to focus on looking up and concentrate on what they could see.

This proved an excellent opportunity for practitioners too, just to stop, think, look up and to reflect on how we all see our world very differently.

Upon reflection we noticed the children were positively engaged especially when they worked collaboratively designing their transient art pictures. We recognised that where some children enjoyed transient art others embraced other activities so will continue to ensure there are varied experiences for the children to choose from.

Will continue to use this type of questioning more and more often, it took us to many interests not least the clouds, colour, birds, buildings and much more.

Reflecting on this first week I have really seen the children's skills develop and have found myself stopping to look up.



The children had opportunities to play with and share their ideas with different children who they perhaps hadn't worked with before. It also stretched the children's curiosity of their surroundings and the variety of experiences that met children's interests.

Reference books could have been provided for the children so they they could identify the trees that they had seen and provided them with more visual aids for their clay modelling, next time I will aim to be better prepared.

Having engaged the children this week, I can use their learning as a platform to build upon the knowledge already gained and use it as a means to explore seasonal changes especially with Spring just around the corner.

Hazeldene Family Centre.  
Learning and growing together.

