



“Umm what has happened to that spring board I’ve just set up?” I mused to myself, as I scanned the playground. One of the blue climbing boxes was packed full of tyres, and my obstacle course was effectively deconstructed. “Wow! Whats happening here?” I asked. James said, “It’s our construction site” “Wow!” That very cool!” I replied, and I stood back and watched as James, Cale, Huddy, Jake, Paddy, Eli and Hunter all took part in hauling tyres, boxes, planks trolleys and all manner of other bits



and pieces to the construction site. I watched James struggle with a really heavy log “Watch out for your toes” I cautioned from the side lines (I know how heavy that log is because I had struggled to move it earlier!) James was determined and I knew he wanted to conquer this manoeuvre alone! Then Cale decided to move the green house, soon without any words exchanged his construction mates were at his side. They pushed and hauled, they dragged and put their backs into it. It was a joy to watch! The image of them as big hairy teenagers pushing a car together flashed into my mind, classic! They managed to move the very heavy green house all the way across the safety fall area. “We need a blanket” James said pointing to



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the roof of the house frame that had also just moved into place. "OK, Great idea!" I said and I went inside to find a bedspread to throw over and make a roof. Then I had a better Idea and got the boys an old tent and a tarpaulin which gave them much more privacy. I poked my head into the little house and asked if they would like some blankets to make themselves cosy? They said yes, adding "And some pillows please!" happy to oblige I also brought them some mattresses so they could have five star comfort- after all that hard work they deserved a soft place



to rest! They really enjoyed the little hut, I overheard them talking, they were playing a game, James was the human and the other boys were his pet caterpillars! They stayed in there for quite a while snuggled up in the cosy blankets. Later I saw that some of the construction workers had set up another creation in our forest this time! Fantastic!

What learning is happening here?

Wow wow wow! I was SO IMPRESSED with this fantastic play today! The friends had such a fabulous time cooperating



with each other working together to create, it was **AWESOME!** It was fascinating for me to watch how they actually worked together without having to say a lot, they just got into it and helped each other!

Earlier in the year I went to a lecture on loose parts and creativity. As a team we have been talking about getting more things in our play ground that children can use to create with, but wow, today I saw how the children can do an amazing job of moving even very big and heavy boxes through their team work! I am still keen to get some stumps and other movable materials like

crates and driftwood that can be used to create with. Watching this play today has motivated me to get cracking with sourcing some more loose parts for our playground for these fabulous creative construction workers! I loved watching the children put huge effort into moving and carrying to make their construction site. Its great to have to struggle a bit, it gives children a sense of satisfaction and increases their feeling of power and self confidence. It also



strengthens their disposition to persist, and we know how invaluable that is in the learning process! It was also exhilarating for them to deconstruct and make something new and I believe it afforded the development of new relationships, and a sense of being part of a group. I love my days with these wonderful children, you just never know what might happen next!

love
Julie
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