



In the nursery the children drew and painted trolls and made trolls out of modelling materials

"The dark troll! I'm making the dark troll!"

Teddy (4:2)

Troll

visual representation

"Look there's a troll. I can see it!"

Yasmin (4:3)

starting point



our Atelierista planted a puppet troll outside by the Atelier window under the back stairs which the Forest School groups use to access the minibus.

Mythologies between woodland and nursery

Work involving 35 children aged 3-5 years in Preschool 2, Reflections Nursery 2013

Many of the children's mythologies travel between nursery and forest and in 2013 Trolls featured significantly both indoors and outdoors.

Once the Troll had been spotted there ensued a number of theories about where he had come from and lots of communication with the troll.

The troll evoked some very ambivalent feelings which the children explored through many 'languages', working out whether he was friend or foe. One afternoon after it had rained, the troll was oozing rainwater. Yasmin decided he must have had a "wee accident" and after this revelation children felt a closer emotional bond with him.



A long tube was constructed from the corner of the Atelier through a pipe in the wall to talk to and post letters to the troll.



troll communication



noticing faces



Children began to see trolls in everything, including an Agate slice in the Atelier. In the woodland children were seeing trolls in tree shapes.



troll investigation

"Waving hand troll" Jack (4:0)



forest school

"This is new to him, but not to us. It's old to us." Harriet (4:3)

Eventually our resident troll at nursery made a trip into the forest with the children and was looked after during snack time.

"Troll doesn't have any food." Amelie (4:3)

