



In September 2014 Reflections Nursery began a year-long focus on Storying – the use of narrative in children’s everyday play and investigations. Amongst our two year old children, it wasn’t long before we heard ‘small’ stories of babies and families, and ‘massive’ stories of monsters and giants.

At first these stories sat well within conventional narratives. Babies were in peril and needed protecting. Monsters were huge and dangerous, and an interest grew in things that could get ‘bigger and bigger’; giants, dragons, dinosaurs, volcanoes, storms, fire.

Etta [2:7] modelled ‘a baby place’ and ‘a monster place’ in clay, and for each place she told a story. When characters from the wrong story appeared- two babies in ‘A monster place’, Leo’s shark in ‘A baby place’- they were kept firmly out.

Over many weeks a large group of children extended Etta’s clay places in papier mâché. The two worlds grew more elaborate each day. But one thing didn’t change: the monster place remained on top of the table, the babies’ safe sanctuary was hidden separately underneath.

In her ‘baby place’ Etta built a wall to keep babies and sharks apart, but behind the wall a fascinating new possibility emerged. The protecting parents were gone, leaving only children and babies. And right in the middle of her sculpture a new character appeared:

*‘There is one, look at this one, big strong baby.’*

# The **r**evolutionary baby

an adventure in two year olds’ story-making

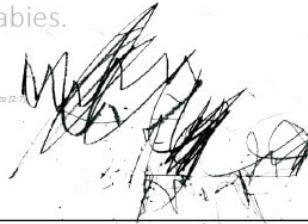
‘The spiders and the monsters live here.

*They fight!*

**They go like: ‘Ahhhhhhh!’**

I made also two babies.

*It’s better to not put the two babies here.’*



‘A lovely wall

*A nice pink wall.*

A nice long wall.

**for protecting the babies’**

