

'A creature who is never finished...'

'If you use a microscope you can see all these creatures' Jackson M.

'a very teeny tiny thing'

**'For the first half of geological time our ancestors were bacteria. Most creatures still are bacteria, and each one of our trillions of cells is a colony of bacteria.'**

Richard Dawkins.

Clay is a simple material. It comes from the ground and is hard to work at first. It needs strength and imagination to transform it. But in the hands of children working as experts and explorers, it can become anything. A pencil line is easier to make but also hard to train. The possibilities of this graphic language are endless too; a line can shift and change, it can evolve like life itself.

A group of children who have been working with both clay and line drawing for over a year have refined their skills and understanding of what these materials can do, and now like 'little gods' they are creating a whole world of life forms, detailed 'creatures' of every ordinary and extraordinary kind, with important individual characteristics:

*'A creature with a different eye...a very teeny tiny thing...tiny creatures that live on a plant...a fragile creature...a monkey who can see the future.'*

The children have become fascinated by the smallest forms of life – bacteria, micro-organisms, single cell creatures. And by the most surprising – creatures whose transparent bodies allow you to see inside.

They have begun to articulate what constitutes life itself, researching at the same time as inventing.

Through a focus on the tiniest forms of life they are investigating some of life's biggest questions; *what was it like before I was born? What forms of life are possible? What is the relationship between humans and the rest of the world? What do you need to be alive?*

And they do not shy away from contradictions in these researches. As we have introduced microscopes, magnifying glasses, projectors and stethoscopes to amplify their senses, the children's thoughts and questions have become even more subtle and surprising: *'Maybe there are colours we can't see...how can you see in the dark?...do you have sounds inside your body?'*

*'I am making a lot of creatures and I am putting lots of blood inside my creatures because I want my creatures staying alive.'* Caiden

**'Wow! It's so beautiful! Maybe there are colours we can't see!'** Etta

- Bacteria
- Tree with Bacteria
- Flying mouse
- Stingwhite
- Baby animal
- Snail
- Turtle
- Long neck
- Monkey
- Faces everywhere
- The boss of the creatures
- Ant
- Baby Hospital
- The little one
- Tiniest wiggle worm ever
- Eggs
- Seeds
- Friendly germs
- Dangerous germs
- Little germs
- Tiny mini germs
- Sticky germ
- The deep dark germ
- Chicken with eggs
- Germs inside a body
- Caterpillar
- A very teeny tiny thing
- Monster seeds
- A creature with a different eye
- A seed underground
- Mummy's tummy dark inside
- A big tummy with a tiny baby inside
- Shades bugs (they make shades when they die)
- The inside of a frog
- Long arm
- My sister (I haven't one)
- Creature
- Creature- airplane
- A castle with a baby trapped inside
- Spider
- A powerful creature
- Poison snake attacking my creature
- A creature picking up his baby while is sleeping
- A creature who can see in the dark
- Octopus
- A creature who is never finished
- A fish with long eyes
- Jellyfish
- A creature who lives underwater
- A creature who lives underground
- A monkey who can see the future
- A creature without a story
- The tiny world
- A tiny but very powerful creature
- Transparent creature
- A creature getting alive
- A fragile creature
- A creature with blood inside to keep her alive
- A creature called Caiden
- Transquid
- A creature with different shades of blood inside
- Creature back in mummy's tummy
- Inside and outside of a tummy
- Babies in mummy's tummy
- A creature with things inside that you can't see
- Germs that look like shooting stars

