



'Loop the loop the loop...my loop the loop might really go up to the sky.' Luke [3:9]

'I've been turning round and round, and then I've been dizzy.' Thomas [4:1]



spinning
 running
 leaping
 climbing
 moving together
 moving alone
 going far
 going fast
 balancing
 falling
 rolling
 sliding
 magic movement
 powerful movement
 expert movement
 secret movement
 traces
 maps
 lines
 circles
 'everywhere
 goes somewhere...'

the forest is a place to *move...*

What happens when powerful, competent, imaginative children are engaged in an exploration that seems simple, repetitive and obvious? Our interest in *movement and stillness* began with exactly this question. Oscar, Thomas and Finn had been going to the forest for eight months and still spent much of their time running in a circle, round and round, in the same place each week. Knowing that children are unlikely to repeat something without reason, we decided to observe *the running boys* more closely. Where did they run? Did they say anything while running? How and why did the running begin? How did it end? Why was the circle so important?

Running in a circle enabled the boys to run together, to run faster and faster on a well known track, to run forever with no end to the circle and many possible beginnings.



There were social aspects to their running too; the boys' friendship was expressed through chasing and escaping, imitating each other's sounds as they ran, playing the same game together: *'You're playing the wolf and I'm playing the wolf and you're playing the wolf.'* Thomas [4:1]

Repetition made the boys expert runners; they were fast and agile, they never tripped or fell, their speed increased with balance and fine judgement. When we offered a space in the nursery garden to continue exploring movement, Oscar performed a sequence of subtle, choreographed steps in the sand that made powerfully clear the relationship between his repetitive forest running and his refined, expressive agility.

'This is like a running dog day!' Lily [4:6]

Movement & stillness

'Let's just walk somewhere, this way let's only go...

...we're in the middle of the earth.' Stellan [4:8]