



WHIMSICAL PLAY WITH AMY

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Hello and welcome to Whimsical Play with Amy. The natural curiosities and wonders from children in the early years foundation stage are what make each day so magical.

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Chicka, Chicka 123 at the Mud Kitchen

Bring the book to life

We love to sprinkle children's literature into everything we do and explore. This playful provocation is inspired by the storybook Chicka, Chicka 123 by Bill Martin Jr, Michael Sampson and Lois Ehlert. The story engages children with numbers on a giant apple tree. There are so many opportunities to practice counting skills in this story and explore number recognition as you go through the story.

The illustrations and patterns throughout this book are highly engaging for young readers and the children love to count the apples and spot the different shapes and patterns.

We created an open ended playful number table outside for the children to roam and explore. We gathered a variety of loose parts and trinkets, such as numbers, buttons, beads, pompoms and fresh apples. We maintained the colour theme of the book, bringing it's elements to life.



Playing with water

Chicka Chicka Mix

The children had access to a variety of large tubs and containers. They are able to scoop, measure and pour using real life equipment. We placed some large bowls out on the grass for the children to collaborate and share ideas together. They children independently filled cups and teapots and added green food colour to change the colour of the water. We also added apple scented essence, which added to the enrichment of the experience during play. The children then collected items and loose parts to add to the mixture. They added sprinkles and sparkles and counted the scoops together. Children love to stir, mix, pour and splash water and this was a fun and simple way to enrich our water play inspired from activities in the book.

Creative & Critical Thinking Skills

Unique Creations

. Children are naturally curious and have wonderful unique ideas and processes to play and the way they set out to achieve things. The loose parts set out on the table sparked curiosity, questions and discussions between the children as they explored the items and made links and connections to the story book. Some of the children enjoyed washing the apples and decorating them with sparkles and sequence. Other children found small tin bowls and filled them with different trinkets, practicing 1:1 correspondence skills and counting skills together. Some children also created their own unique Chicka, Chicka 123 Tea drinks, filling orange cups with different ingredients. They added beads, numbers, pompoms, treetop mix and then used lolly sticks to mix and stir they're creations.



"I smell apples"
Jassie - 3 years

"Number
Tea"
Tyree
- 3 years



Playdough Trays

A play dough tray is a wonderful way for children to build on their fine motor skills, while developing creative and critical thinking. We made fresh homemade playdough and added apple pompoms, lolly sticks, numbers and wooden blocks on to the sorting tray. The children played together, building their own Chicka Chicka trees. They used the wooden blocks to build trees, and then balanced the green lolly sticks on the top to make branches. They then rolled play dough balls to make apples or counted and added the pompoms to the creations. Some of the children also added numbers, just like in the story. We also made number prints in the play dough and traced them with our fingers.



"The number 7"
Pang Pang - 3 years



"My Tree"
Sean - 3 years



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