



# WHIMSICAL PLAY WITH AMY

By. Amy Jayne Ramsey



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.

If you would like to learn more about Whimsical Play please follow me.

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## Snowman Soup at the Mud Kitchen

### Imaginative Play

This is a wonderful way to enrich your winter play at the mud kitchen outside. Snowman soup is inspired by the children's picture walk story 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs.

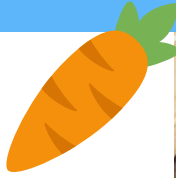
A picture walk story is a wonderful way for children to practice their communication and language skills as they look at the pictures, make sense of what they can see and narrate the story in their own words or gestures.

For snowman soup, we filled two cooking pots with water and added some white water based paint to change it's colour. We then added some sticks and pine cones for arms and buttons which float in the big pot and a slice of orange and cranberries for the nose and face in the smaller pot.. Let the children add the elements and talk about the process. together.





# Unique Creations



## Counting, Sorting and Measuring

The children were able to pick and sort what they would like to add to the snowman soup creations. They scooped sand and blue sensory rice into the pot and continued to fill the pot with more water. They also added in ice cubes, chopped carrots, which we cut into whole circles and halves. They then added some crunchy leaves, white rocks, pompoms and pine cones. As the children were adding the ingredients they were counting and naming the items. We added a collection of ladles and mini cups for the children to practice scooping and measuring different amounts, exploring weight and capacity concepts together.

# Collaborative Learning Opportunities



## Unique Creations

. Mud kitchens are wonderful for sparking curiosity and encouraging children to explore together, get messy and have fun. The children found different ways to collaborate and develop ideas together. They filled a pumpkin with water and then began adding natural items and halloween sprinkles. They particularly enjoyed using the different sized shakers and they were fascinated by the different herbs we had popped on to the table. The children used the wooden spoons and magic wands to stir the magic pumpkin potion creation. They took turns exploring the different items, noticing how their creation developed. This activity is a wonderful way to enrich sensory play in the provision with high levels of engagement and the children have open ended access to exploring real life items which are familiar to them in the world around them. Remember to scoop and count the seeds and pulp together with the children, this is all part of the fun and adds to the full experience.



"A rock, an orange, a pinecone, some syrup"  
Tyree & Maverick - 3 years

"The snowman has a carrot"  
Christmas - 3 years

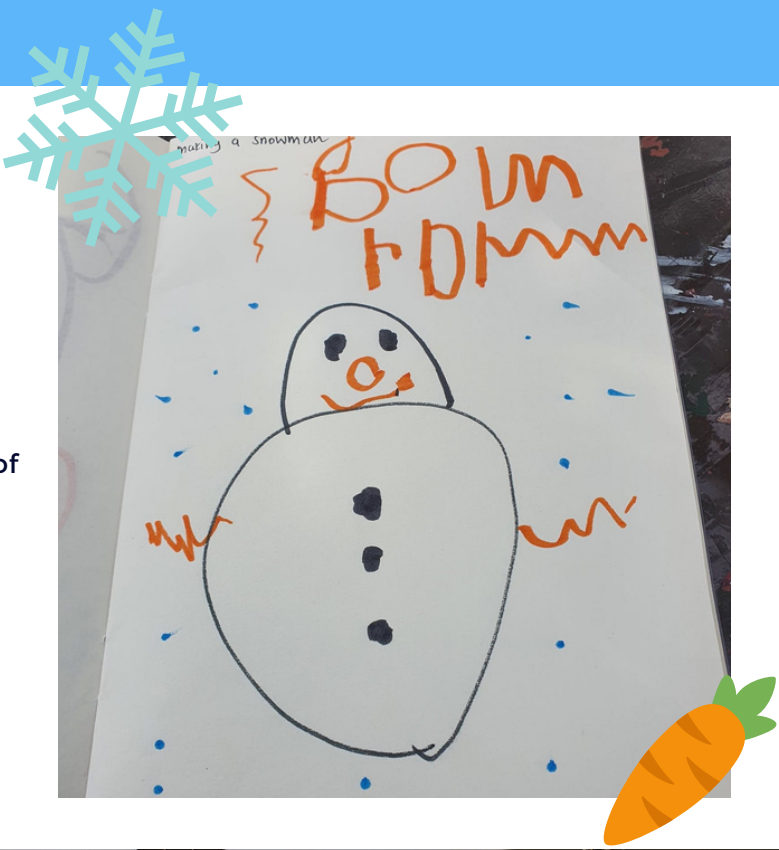




# Snowman Research

You can encourage children to share ideas on what they know about snow, winter and how to build a frosty snowman or a frosty snow sculpture. We labeled the different parts of our snowman together and then the children enjoyed making their own creations in their journals. They practiced making two circles for the body and then counted the buttons by making dot marks. Some of the children can also practice writing letters, sounds and words. The children have access to a variety of pens, which they used to mark make. Some of the children added snow dots and others practiced drawing the orange carrots. When children have continuous access to their journals it fosters a love for thinking and writing down our unique ideas and creations, If you would like to learn more about creative journals, you can scan the QR code below.

"Snowflakes"  
BeiBei - 3 years



"Big carrot, small carrot"  
Helen - 3 years



Scan Me for more play ideas and inspirations

