

This morning the children used materials from the art and craft corner to construct their own learning, scaffolded by the science exploration gravitating around the idea of 'light and objects' and on how we see/observe things.

The initial question was to spot (I spy...) the animals through a paper roll, which was attached to a box holding different pictures inside. Jack, who contributed to the idea, shared his photos with Kian and Philippa discussing the animals they saw in zoos.

Philippa: Meine Mutter mag eigentlich keine Zoos, denn dort werden Tiere gefangen und leben nicht in der Freiheit!

John, who assisted the crafting at the table acknowledged Philippa's comment and added in German that in some areas of the world animals can live in large areas where humans can still take good care of them and how in the past some scientists used zoos to display some animals for people who couldn't travel to see them in the wild.



Our animals today were cut out of the GEOlino mini booklet, a German magazine series about nature facts.



'Next are the meerkats!', announced Mina choosing from many booklets available. Henry found a page with different dinosaurs and made the activity 'spot the dinosaur and difference', naming some of them and what indicators and colours to look for. As the children took turns they came up with more ideas and challenges.

The top lid of the box was used to place the next picture and also to control the distance of the long paper roll to the picture and where it pointed to. The light source, a torch from a phone, created brightness for the inside.

EYLF Outcome 4
 Children are confident and involved learners.
 Key components
 Children develop dispositions for learning curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

As the children looked through the paper roll they discovered how the light was affecting their visibility/view.

Henry: If the night is too dark we need to get more light...and when the sun is up,... it is morning.
 In the beginning John used his phone to generate the light in the box and later used the electric light of a lantern light.

More children began to show interest in the spotting game and searching for the animals or other things. Eli was surprised at how well it worked and walked through the preschool demonstrating the box to other children. 'Look here!', he said and asked the children to look through the rolls into the box.



Eli: Finn, look here real Meerkats!
 Finn: Meerkats Limassol!...wow!
 Oliver: These are binoculars!

Often the children at preschool would craft pretend binoculars or telescopes and today those were attached to a box where children had to spy certain things. Obviously the rolls can't magnify like the real ones, but they can encourage the children focus and zero in on things they may otherwise overlook. This activity encourages observational skills and also leads to all sorts of imaginary play and language development.



Here the children participated in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences, changing the pictures, choosing new motives and light sources, looking for the right amount of light (brightness) and they experienced the satisfaction of achievement by playing the spotting game with their peers.

Mina then turned the light on and off commenting 'Now its night again!' 'Now I can't see!', shouted Julia and Mina turned the light back on .
 Julia: I can see again!



Lantern light



Carla: Jetzt ist auch Licht in unserem Haus!
 After the success of our science experiment gravitating around light, objects and on how we observe things, the children used the same light source to brighten their cardboard boxes/ cubby houses or toy shop box.

We will continue to encourage children to engage in both individual collaborative and explorative learning processes by providing learning environments that are flexible and open-ended. We continue to respond to children's displays of learning dispositions by commenting on them and providing encouragement and additional ideas. We will continue to work on activities that investigate properties and physics associated with light, such as light and shadow play.