

Building a dam

Created on: **24/10/2018** by **Narelle Bennett**

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Over the last few months the Possum class have been discussing farms and the effect the drought is having on the land.

Today I found the boys very busy working together in the sandpit. They had buried half a large pipe in the sand.

I stood back and observed.

They were carrying water in a small bowl and pouring it down the pipe.

Parker looked through the pipe. 'I can see the sunlight!' he told Jack.

'The water is coming down the pipe' Jack warned Parker.

'The sand is almost blocking the pipe' Parker informed the boys.



It was taking the boys a very long time to carry the water in such a small bowl so I asked if they would like to use the watering cans from the garden. The boys thought this was a wonderful idea. They raced to the garden and collected several.



'The water slides down the pipe.' said Jack

'When the water goes in the dry sand it turns gooey' noticed Liam.





'We're making a dam' Liam told me.

'Put the water in here and the water will go all the way down' suggested Eddie.

'Look! Look! Wow! It's (the water) melting all the sand in!' noticed Liam.



'It (the water) bubbles and some of the sand comes up!' giggled Ale.

'That is so magic!' exclaimed Liam.

'That's so cool!' Tiko agreed.

'It (the water) spins!' observed Ale.



'Why don't we use this pipe too' suggested Eddie.

'Great idea!' said Parker.





'One at a time (to pour the water into the hose)' advised Eddie.





'Hold the pipe up so the water goes through' suggested Liam.

'I can see all those bubbles in the hose!' exclaimed Ale.



'All the water goes down and down the pipe and it goes into the dam and the water in the dam gets higher' Oska explained to me.



'The pipe was full of sand and the water pushed it out!' exclaimed Jack.

'We need to dig the sand out.' explained Tiko.

'We need more water' suggested Oska.

'You need to dig inside (the dam) so there's lots of space for the water' advised Tiko.

'I'm digging so we have a better hole so the water can go through' explained Oska.

'It's hard work' sighed Tiko.



What an amazing dam you built today!

What learning do I think is happening here?

Boys, I was so impressed when I saw what you were doing in the sandpit today. You

were all cooperating and working collaboratively with each other. You were open to new challenges and you persisted when your first attempts weren't successful. For example when the water spilled everywhere or the pipe filled with sand. I enjoyed listening to you give each other suggestions and encouragement. Your communication was amazing! I loved the way you negotiated different roles in your play. No one was being bossy. Everyone was working together on the common goal of filling the dam. Boys, you were all so enthusiastic and busy. You used play to investigate and explore your ideas. You manipulated the pipes and water and experimented with cause and effect, trial and error and motion to fill the dam. You used reflective thinking to consider why the water was moving through the pipes and why it was bubbling and spinning in the dam. What a wonderful morning. Great team work boys!

Opportunities and possibilities?

Continue the discussion of drought.

What can farmers do if the dam runs out of water.

Discuss being water wise and not wasteful.

EYLF (Early Years)

Outcome 1 : Children have a strong sense of identity

 1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency

Outcome 2 : Children are connected to and contribute to their world

 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Outcome 4 : Children are confident and involved learners

 4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

 4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating