



Project Report

Ronald Openshaw Nursery

Birds of Paradise

Activity:

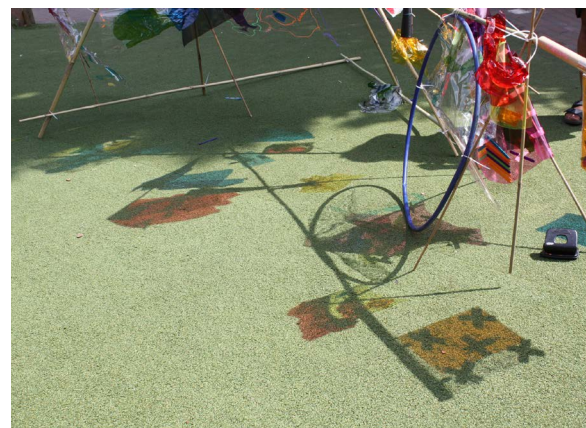
Artist Natalie Zervou-Kerruish worked with Ronald Openshaw to develop a project that took birds and flight as their starting point. The project started with a staff CPD where Natalie introduced her approach and interpretation of the project. Natalie was interested in focusing on the shadows, colours and momentary glimpses of birds we often have. Working with staff, they experimented with materials to create sculptures that made momentary shadows and made viewing telescopes and viewfinders to create a different experience of viewing the world around us. The teachers enjoyed the open-ended and experimental nature of the project, which aligned with the nursery's free-play ethos.

Taking ideas from the CPD, Natalie then delivered a day-long workshop for children and their parents. She created a structure from large canes, which would be used as both a hanging device and structure to move through. Children were then given a selection of materials to use to add to the structure and make coloured shadows. Children were given prompts and ideas, but predominantly given free rein to explore the qualities of different materials.

Testimonies:

"Children, parents and staff evidently engaged and there was lots of wonder at the appearance of shadows. Staff took pride in displaying creations around the garden and we discussed ways of extending the project beyond the workshop using other elements such as water as well as transporting the viewing tools and shadow sticks into different environments." Natalie Zervou-Kerruish, Lead Artist

"It was such a lovely day and the children are still fascinated with their work" Teacher



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