



Hiding Project

Owl - Lincoln Road: Infant

Background

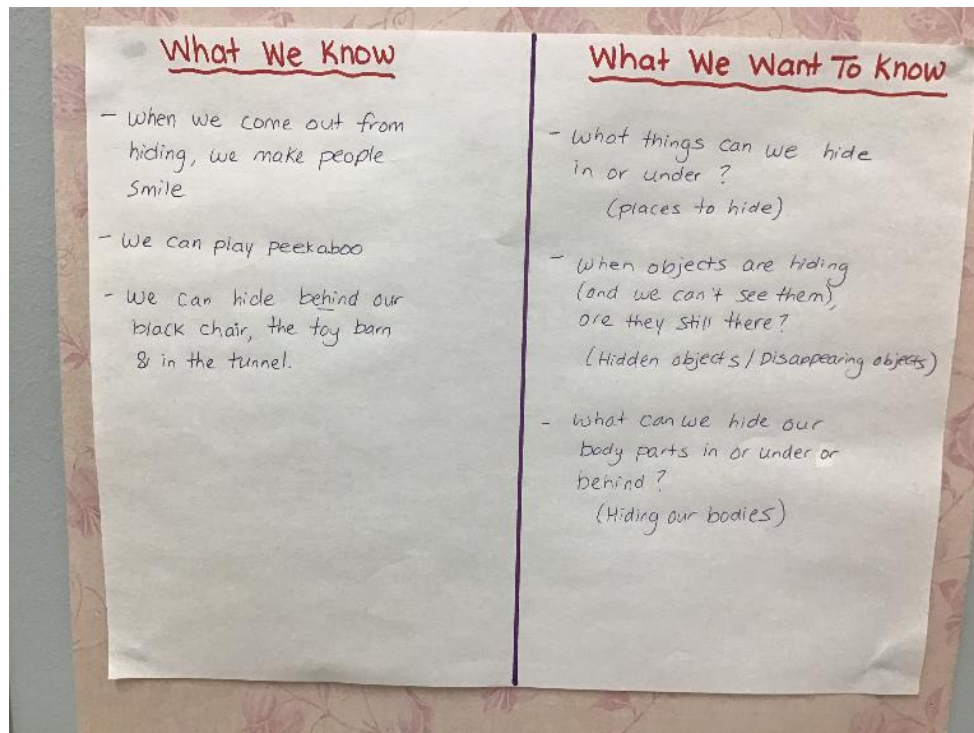
Our project on hiding began in October 16th, 2018 and wrapped up in December 19th, 2018. The ages of children involved were between 13 months and 18 months old. The educators involved in the project were Nancy Lazo, RECE, Shannon Swanson, RECE, Melody Brubacher, RECE, and Kate Delemere, RECE.

Phase 1: Beginning the Project

Like most infants, there was a lot of interest in the game of peek-a-boo. Whether it was during a diaper change or simply during their own play, the infants would often go behind the black educator chair, the toy barn or the tunnel and peek out to see the teachers. "Peek-a-boo" the educators would say. One day, a few of the children were laying on pillows, so Melody brought out some blankets to use to snuggle. Instead of using them to pretend to sleep with, they chose their own direction of play...they turned the blankets into a game of peekaboo. They hid under them and found Melody when she hid under the blankets in different areas of the room.

Educators Kate, Shannon, Nancy and Melody began comparing notes and discussed these observations on the children's' interest in Peek-a-boo and discovered they liked the element of hiding and thought they should begin a project about this interest.

Based on our observations, the infants have some knowledge and awareness about hiding. They know that when they come out from hiding, they make people smile. They know they can play peek-a-boo and how to initiate it. They also know that the big items in the classroom they can hide behind such as the black educator chair, the toy barn or the tunnel.

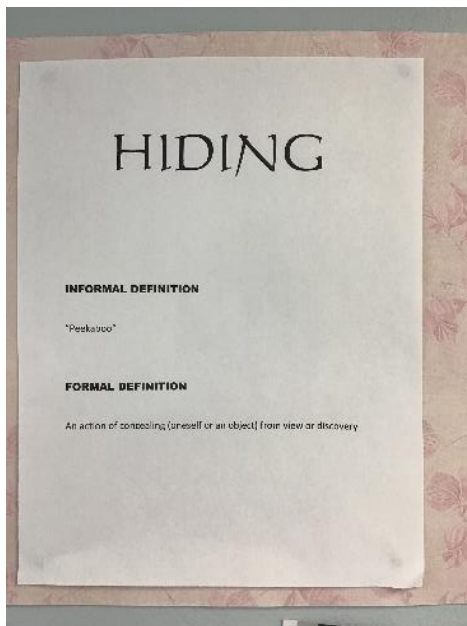


We have also deduced what type of questions the infants may have on hiding based on how they play and explore Peek-a-boo. What things can we hide in or under? When objects are hiding (and we can't see them) are they still there? What can we hide our body parts in, under or behind?

We also discussed who we could ask about hiding. We thought about asking a magician, since they are often hiding and making objects reappear.

Phase 2: Developing the Project

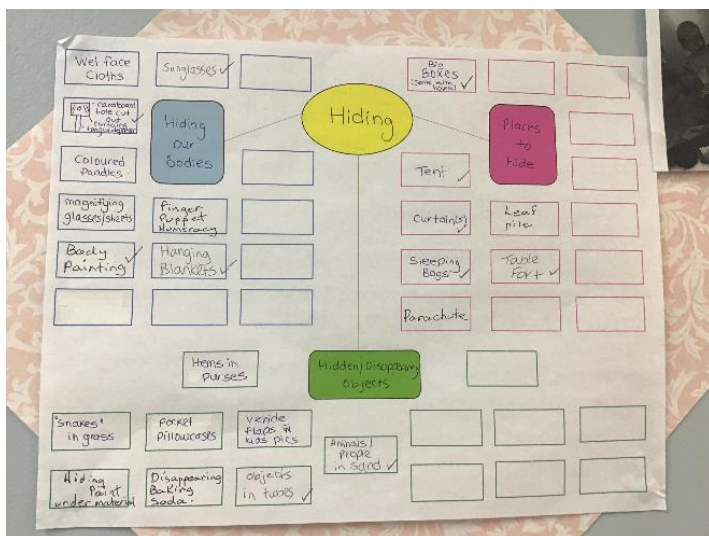
To begin our project we created an informal definition of the word hiding. What does hiding mean to the infants? We also created a formal definition in order to help us discover "what" about this topic the infants are interested in.

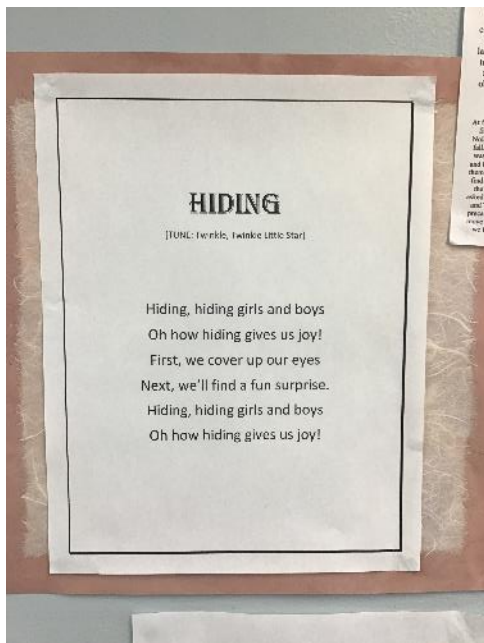


Informal Definition: Peek-a-boo

Formal Definition: An action of concealing yourself or an object from view or discovery

Once we had the definition in place, we were able to create a web circling questions the infants wanted answered during our investigations. "how can we hide our bodies?", "places to hide" and "hiding, disappearing objects". Based on those questions we were able to create ideas for our investigations.





We created a song to go along with our Hiding topic.

Tune: Twinkle, twinkle little star

Hiding, Hiding girls and boys
Oh how hiding gives us joy!
First, we cover up our eyes
Next, we'll find a fun surprise.
Hiding, hiding girls and boys
Oh how hiding gives us joy!

Tube hiding- Oct. 16

The Infants explored the question when objects are hiding are they still there? We gathered some different sized cardboard tubes, animal and people toys and some film containers. Right away, the infants used their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination to place the items into the upright tubes. They then looked in to see that the toys were still there, lifted the tube or tipped it over to find the hidden items. Olivia tried placing a banana in a small tube, but it did not fit. Owen decided to try crawling through the tube like a tunnel, but it was too small. We then took turns standing inside a bigger tube, which was in an upright position, hiding our bodies. When we could not squat down to hide our whole bodies, Shannon got out the log tunnel and turned it up right to hide in. "Peek-a-boo, I see you."



Peek a boo boxes- Oct. 26

We were exploring cardboard boxes with holes cut out the top and a flap at the bottom to see inside the box. Reeve discovered that he could drop a ball through the hole. However, where did it go? Reeve pulled the flap down to see the ball in there! He turned and smiled. What a great discovery! He worked hard and enjoyed playing this new game repeatedly. The ball would disappear each time he dropped it in the hole, but Reeve would find it again, hurray! He learned that even though he could not see the ball, it was still there.



Levi saw the box and immediately saw the small opening at the bottom of the box. He used his spatial awareness to get down as low as he could and army crawled in. Once in, he looked around and came back out. He did this twice. He wasn't sure if he liked it as a hiding place! Maybe he wanted something bigger?



Sleeping bag- Oct. 30

Olivia, Reeve and Levi hid inside the sleeping bags and surprised each other when they popped out from under them. At first they laid on top of the sleeping bags feeling the different textures. Nancy hid under the sleeping bag to see how they would react. They noticed immediately she was gone but did not do anything about it. They did not even try to take the sleeping bag off of her. So she uncovered

herself. “Boo” she said. They giggled and when she hid herself the next time they worked hard to pull the sleeping bag off. It became a game and they giggled each time she popped out. Then they too started to hide their bodies under their sleeping bag as well. Great way to hide ourselves.



Hidden Ghosts-Nov. 1

The infants know that hiding toys and then finding them is an exciting experience. Kate filled five plastic gloves with water, then froze them for this sensory/science activity. She hid the frozen gloves around the infant room. Penny found a glove in the kitchen sink. Kate asked her “is the glove hot or cold”?. “Can we find more frozen gloves?” She made a scrunchy face and began looking in all directions. Olivia was excited to find a glove behind the big black chair and used her palmer grasp to pick up the cold glove. Jake and Taegan began looking as well. Kate demonstrated how to use their finder glasses, with making two circles over their eyes. They both discovered two more gloves on the toy shelf. “Oh look” Kate said “The gloves are melting.” Water was dripping out of the fingers of the glove. The infants learned what things they can hide and find. They also developed their language skills, new words that were introduced were frozen, glove, hot, cold, find and glasses.



Blanket curtains-Nov. 2

Nancy hung up blankets from a rope across the classroom. Taegan raced over to lift the sheet and peek at Nancy. “Boo” said Nancy. This made her laugh. Malcolm and Olivia came to join her too. Only this time they walked in circles or went through the blankets to peek at each other. Every time they found each other they giggled, squealed and would run away or hide again. Tagean even noticed a floating head above her. It was Shannon! Peyton and Nolan stayed in one spot, but moved the blanket to see the other side and then cover their faces so they couldn’t see. Now you see me, now you don’t! They knew their friends were there, even though sometimes they couldn’t see them! They also knew to cover themselves up and someone would find them.



Table fort- Nov.9

We created a table fort today with a folding table and two big blankets. The children liked to peek under at their friends, hide underneath the table and play peek-a-boo with the blankets. We then took the blankets off and stood on a block or an educator's lap to peek over the top of the table "Peek". Then the table was flipped onto its side, and we peeked at Nancy and Georgia who were on the other side, "We see you".

Tents - Nov. 14

The educators provided the children with 2 different tents to learn about something that they could hide in. Once the circus-like tent was set up, they all piled in. They were soon giving each other lots of hugs while inside! They also noticed that Nancy was peeking down at them from a mesh hole in the top. They all looked up and found her! Malcolm explored the circular shape of the tent as he manoeuvred his body around the circular edge. This also prompted him to spin in circles while inside it. Then another tent was set up. It had some mesh walls. Owen and Olivia gave Melody high fives through the mesh. Owen came out of the tent to feel the difference as he gave her high fives outside of the tent too. Owen also learned what happens if he leaned on the sides of the tent. He realized that he could make it tip over. When Peyton peeked in the tent, she spotted some toys. While Olivia was in the mesh tent, she knew where Melody was and when she was coming to peek around at her. Melody wondered how she knew each time, which side she would pop out from. Nancy let Melody know that Olivia could see Melody's shadow! Surprise!



Where, Oh Where Are The Children - Nov. 15, 2018

The infants enjoy cause and effect. Sometimes the educators demonstrate this sensory by providing small receiving blanket and playing peek-a-boo. This does not have to be a planned activity, it can be child initiated because they enjoy the thrill of seeing dark turn into light. Owen brought over a blanket to Kate and indicated that he wanted her to join him in a game of peek-a-boo. Kate asked Owen to sit down on the floor where it is safer to play peek-a-boo and she said "Owen, you are a very good listener". Kate then lifted the blanket over his head. Owen giggled with delight, then pulled the blanket back off. When we hide our bodies under a blanket, we experienced science as well as hiding, when the world turns light to dark. Olivia likes to hide her body. Olivia watched from across the room and then walked over to join in the fun. "Olivia, do you want to play peek-a-boo?" She sat down and Kate gently placed the blanket up in the air and let the blanket drift down on her head. "Where is Olivia?" Kate asked. She lifted the blanket up and Kate said "Olivia, we wondered where you went". What a great way to learn language and science in a fun way.



Sand- Nov. 16

We used our sensory, cognitive, fine motor and language skills to search and find hidden objects in the sand. At first the infants wanted to feel how the sand felt on their fingers. It was soft and smooth. Malcolm and Nolan enjoyed lifting the sand up and watching it fall. “Uh oh” said Olivia when she realized there was something in the sand. Penny found the pig and Owen found the toy people. He liked to move them around the sand while Penny worked hard to find all the toys hidden. Olivia found the horse. “What did you find Olivia?” Nancy asked. “Neigh” responded Olivia. Peyton, Georgia and Taegan were unsure of the texture and took precarious touches of the sand. They preferred to move the sand using the toys instead. Good thing we found all the hidden animals and people!



Card board holders - Nov.22

The children were given cardboard peekaboo holders to explore. First, they held them up in front of their faces and moved them away to peek at each other. After a while, they figured out that they could lift up the material and peek out at each other that way. Some of the children learned that they can hide their hands, arms and feet through the holes (behind the material). They also used their balanced to place it on their heads without dropping it.



Glasses – Nov. 23

We explored 3D glasses to cover up our eyes. First, the infants discovered how to open and close the arms of the glasses. Then they attempted to put them on, however it only made it to our necks. They were wearing them like necklaces. The educators then helped put them onto the infants' faces. They knew to look up to get them on. They thought it was funny to look up over the frames instead of through them. They liked the motion of taking them on and off. They used their signs and words to say "help" to get them back on. They created a fun game too, where Nancy would cover her eyes with the glasses. "Where are my eyes?" Nancy asked. "Eyes" said Penny and Olivia. Nolan pulled the glasses off and said "ta-da", he found her! Then everyone was able to find Nancy and her eyes!



Purses- Nov 27

The children were given a purse to explore. Malcolm wanted to put his head inside a purse to hide. Taegan put the purse on top of her head and over her eyes to hide as well. This was a creative way to hide their heads. Malcolm and Olivia put lanyards into the purses to hide objects as well.

Cups and toys hiding- Nov. 28

The infants explored hiding and finding different toys and loose parts from the classroom, under cups. The educator placed toy animals, people, a washer, an ornament and a puzzle piece under cups. Then mixed them up by moving the upside down cup around on the table. The infants picked up different cups or Nolan would flip the cups over to reach his hands in to try and find where the toy went. When hiding the toy girl, Penny and Taegan picked up many cups in search of the toy before finding the girl. Owen also would place the toys into different cups just to take them back out, finding them again and again. The children then started to explore the cups in different ways, Penny and Olivia would hide their mouths and make echoing noises, Malcolm would squeeze and crumple the cups and even taste it by biting on the edge. Olivia found a beater in the kitchen and was stirring it inside her cup. Penny came back for more and with the assistance of the educators set up the cup and hid a toy, she could find the toys over and over.



November 30th

Nancy put her chapstick on and Olivia noticed that Nancy put it in her pocket. Olivia was curious and put her hand in Nancy's pocket looking for the chapstick. She pulled it out and showed Nancy giving her a big smile. "Oh there's my chapstick", Nancy said. She acted as if she didn't know she put it there. Olivia smiled and put it back in Nancy's pocket and said "uh oh". She also made the hand gesture saying "Where is it". Olivia reached into Nancy's pocket and pulled it out, "there" she said excitedly. She repeated this game a few times over. She enjoyed hiding the chapstick and demonstrating to Nancy that she could find it. She played her own version of a hide and seek game!





Throughout our investigations about Hiding, we were able to create a list of words we used or were frequently. Our favourite word to say was “peek-a-boo”.

Phase 3: Concluding the Project

We knew the project was ending as the infants’ interest in turning all games into peek-a-boo began to diminish.

To finish our project, we decided to do a final event and invited our parents to join us for some ball pit fun! We hid some of the children’s sleep stuffies in the pool of balls. Nolan, Olivia and Owen found their sleep stuffies. They hugged them and then placed them back in the pool. Penny liked finding everyone else’s stuffies too! Olivia and Penny also discovered there were balls that were different from all the balls in the pit. They noticed differences and similarities. Great start to matching skills. Owen and Reid (his dad) created their own game of hiding. Owen was looking through the side of the pool when dad noticed him peeking. So dad popped down to peek at him. Then they would peek over the side pool and through it. Boo! What a great way to finish our interest in hiding! Olivia and Mom Tierna also created their own version of peek-a-boo. Olivia surrounded herself with the balls and when Tierna would look in and surprise her, Olivia gave mom the biggest giggles. She was hiding in plain sight and it couldn’t be funnier!



Teacher Reflections

This was a fun little project, seeing how much the children liked to hide and peek out at not just the educators but with each other. There were so many social connections being made throughout this project. I loved how so many things that we brought out had turned into a hiding experience (even when the educators had not thought of that intention when things were brought in the room for other interests). I learned some new things as well through doing this project. Such as when Olivia knew where I was behind the tent because of my shadow. That possibility had not even crossed my mind. It was also a lot of fun to brainstorm and provide new things for the children to hide in, under or behind that we may not have thought of had we not done this project!

Melody Brubacher RECE

This project was so much fun to do!!! It was interesting trying to create hiding experiences based on their interests. It was also amazing to see how they explored and created their own hiding games without any prompting or demonstrations. Seeing their excitement and seeing the learning in their

facial expressions was also neat. You could tell what their thinking process was and how they demonstrated it through their play. My favourite moment would be when Olivia found my chapstick and she initiated a peek-a-boo game all on her own. It made me realize that they truly picked up the concept of hiding. It was also fun to watch their pure enjoyment of playing with their friends. In doing the hiding project there were more opportunities for them to socialize with their peers, so the social interactions grew to a point in where they would play peek-a-boo all on their own. Laughing and giggling! To see that recognition was wonderful. It was also great to see the parents involved, they sent in pictures and told us of moments in which their child started games of peek-a-boo or simply would hide. It was a fun experience for all of us!

Nancy Lazo RECE

I enjoyed hiding with the children and experiencing cause and effect in a fun way. The infants got excited to participate in the activities. There were plenty of giggles as the peek-a-boo blanket game was played. The educators asked many questions, such as “what does the blanket feel like when it touches our bodies”? These questions enhanced the children’s language development. This project allowed the educators to think out of the box, and with Halloween, approaching the “Frozen Ghost” activity was put into action. The plastic gloves held water and were frozen hard. The children enjoyed looking for them and I enjoyed observing them discovering this chilly glove. I especially enjoyed the parent social on Dec. 19, 2018, because the parents actually participated in a ball pit with hidden soft bed toys. The balls hid the animals and the parent/child team had to uncover the toy. This activity was a great activity that the parents will continue with at home.

Kate Delemere RECE

I enjoyed this project as much as the children did. It was fun exploring with them and their peers, as we found different objects to hide under or behind. It was interesting to see that the infants during the project would start using almost everything to begin a game of peek-a-boo, like a tambourine or a book just in front of their face. It was also great to sit back and observe as the children would play peek a boo with each other and the joy of the social interaction that was created. I love how the infants picked up new words during this project and how the older ones would repeat the word and use it on their own if the object was used again. It was great bringing it all together in the end with the parents and watching the infants take the hiding that they mastered and play with their parents. I loved watching Owen peek through the side of the pool wall at his dad, and how his dad played the game right back. This project filled our room with laughter and smiles, can’t wait to see what their next big interest will be.

Shannon Swanson RECE