

June 2005:

We put some crates in our outdoor classroom for the children.

They used them for many different things including a police station, a doghouse, a cave and a bedroom. The boys engaged in conversation in order to build their models agreeing to make changes if they thought of a better way.

This extended their play with the boxes.

One morning they decided that they wanted to build a boat. They worked together to build the bases of the boat from milk crates. Once they had built that up they used the boxes on top of the crates as seats. More children joined in, they used spades for oars, a hoop for a steering wheel, a rope tied to another hoop for an anchor. They also took a rubber ring in case they 'drowned'. Some children even poured water around the boat to make the sea.



Boat play



We set up a seaside role play area outside using a boat and a sheet to represent the water. The children enjoyed using the net to see what they could catch.

Later the children set out on a boat journey - to Africa!

We looked at the map and saw that it was a long journey. They decided that they needed to write a list of things to take with them. They fetched note pads and pencils and wrote a list of the things they would need.

Building

New sand was delivered and a group of boys decided to make cement by mixing sand with water. They found a trowel and plastic bricks and building began. They fetched tipper trucks and allocated roles with a site manager conducting the proceedings.

The following day they discovered the sand had dried out and the bricks came apart!



Exploring shoe boxes



Following the disappointment of the 'cement' not working, the same group of children decided to try something else. They thought they could pretend that PVA glue was cement and used shoe boxes as bricks.

At this point girls got involved designing the wall on whiteboards. They talked about architects and 'brickies' and decided they were the architects. Good progress was made on the wall and paint provided the finishing touch.

