



## The great duckling escape route

Lately the big discussion at our morning circle time has revolved around the topic

of the duck and her eggs that we have at preschool. This morning's discussions centered around the problem that might occur if the ducklings hatched when we were not at preschool. As usual, William contributed lots of great ideas about this topic and how we might be able to work out a plan to help the ducklings get down from the barrel. A few suggestions were put forward by the children like 'they could fly' or 'wait until we got there'. William, who is a great problem solver, came up with quite a viable solution. He suggested that we make a slide so that the ducklings could slide down. William had seen big water slides on his visit to Australia so he was pretty confident that this would work. Connor worried that perhaps they wouldn't be able to get up again. Later, when the boys were outside, William kept wondering about the problem and went to the shed and got out a plank to begin to make his escape route for the ducklings. "I know," he said, "this plank has wooden steps on the back and this will mean the ducklings will be able to get back up again." I think this was quite a 'eureka' moment for William as his slide idea with the plank had provided the solution that we had been concerned about. The rest of the morning saw William and Connor setting up the plank and a bowl with soft material from the art room in it. They thought about water and bread that the ducklings might need and these were placed at the bottom. A gate was made at the bottom of the slide so that the ducklings would not be able to get away from their mother and come to any harm. Connor made a sign to stop dogs from getting the ducklings. "No dogs" This shows how much thought and care went into this project.

What a great days work!

This is a great example of how William can articulate and formulate



ideas to form theories. We have noticed how his confidence at circle time has increased and he is always ready to contribute his ideas and suggestions. What made this learning particularly significant was the fact that William was able to carry through his ideas and make a real life solution to solve the problem that we had discussed at circle time. It was great to see William and Connor working away on this project so cooperatively and independently and for such a long period of time. We were really amazed at how independently they were able to access all the materials they needed with very little adult support. William and Connor were so proud of their achievements once all the equipment was set up ready for the ducklings.

William, you always spark off ideas in our circle time and the children look to you to take the lead. Perhaps next week you will be able to help the other children carry through some of their ideas in regards to escape routes for the ducklings.