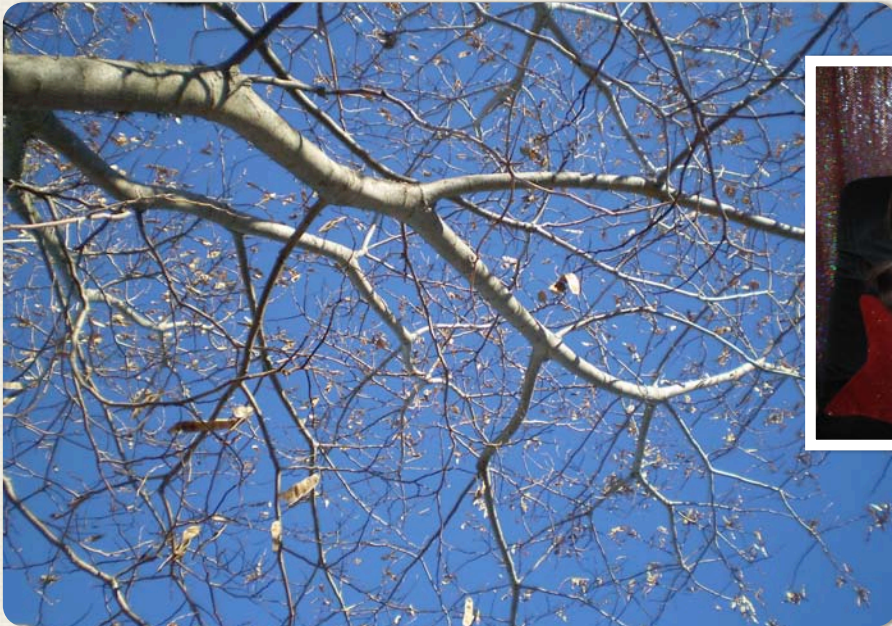


THE ENCOUNTER



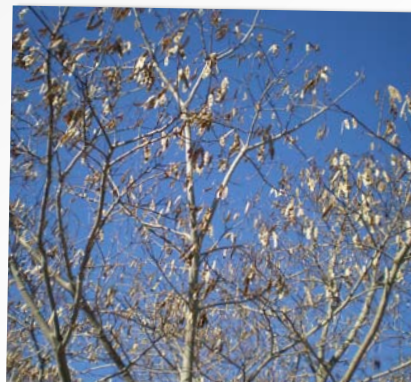
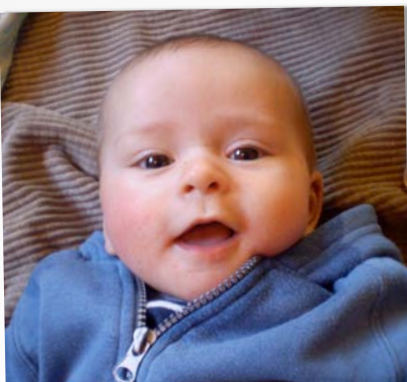
Sam and his mum

A Few Precious Moments.....

Hi Sam. Today I spent a few minutes with you and it made me re-appreciate just how special and momentous a few minutes can be! We were outside in the sunshine under the tree. There was so much all around you to capture your interest. At first I watched you exploring your surroundings as you had been doing before I had arrived. The branches were swaying in the breeze, the warm sun was glistening off the ribbons that swung in the air. It was so

relaxing a place to be and yet so intriguing. I noticed a change in you after a short time. Your eyes moved from what was around you and instead you watched me. You spoke to me with your eyes. You moved your arms, shifting the dialogue, you were ready to communicate and so you created an encounter. What an invitation, if only everyone was as eager to chat with me as you were Sam! Watching your eyes light up, and your lips curl into a smile

when I conversed in return, gave me warm fuzzies inside. When you have something to say Sam we will be here to listen to you. I could see your intentions and in return I hope that you could see mine.



MY THOUGHTS.....

My moments with Sam today reminded me of the importance of stopping, slowing down, watching and really listening. It was in doing this that I was able to see and be a part of Sam's engagement with his environment and then his interaction with me. And what a special moment to treasure.

Sam showed a burning curiosity in the world around him. Wherever his attention was directed he connected, giving it his all. He was captivating, when he engaged with me, drawing me in to his communication, making sure that I was interested, and involved. This eagerness to explore and make connections with people and things will serve

him well as he makes the choices about where his interests lead his learning.

I wanted to write this story for Sam today because I want Sam to see (when he revisits his learning journey in the years to come) that when he was four months old he was an explorer, finding his place in the great outdoors. He was an adventurer who was eager to meet new people and build relationships and I wanted Sam to know that I thought WOW Sam, we are going to have some fun times here with you at Emmett Street.

Your new friend Jo Weston.

