

June 2020

Kim

A SLIMY EXPERIENCE

Sophia, it is a very belated beginning to term 2 as the entire country has been in rāhui (lockdown) for many weeks, and so we were all feeling (teachers, families/whānau and children) a little unsure of what kindergarten would look like now that we had returned to start the new term. Sophia, I had had a conversation with both you and your mummy several days ago and you had expressed an interest in creating some slime to play with at kindergarten. This was great planning Sophia and certainly provided you with an idea of how your day might begin. I had suggested that you might like to think about a colour that you could add to the slime and your mummy shared with me that this kept you busy and looking forward to coming to kindergarten.



This morning you walked in the gate with your mummy and I was so excited to see that big smile on your face. After settling in listening to a book being read, you then said goodbye to your mummy and I asked if you would like to help me prepare the slime.

Cornflour and water is a simple way to make a very slimy mixture and I love the way it transforms. The cornflour particles are suspended in the water, so it flows like a liquid. But when you apply a force to it, the particles lock together, acting like a solid. As soon as the force stops, the slime goes back to being runny.

We experimented together, pushing the slime mixture across the table and then gathering it in our hands. Sophia, we then watched as it changed into a liquid state, running down our fingers.



Sophia, you gathered the slime in your hands and watched as it drizzled down, until there was nothing left in your hands. We then took turns letting the slime fall into each others hands and talking about how it felt. "Slimy, squishy, soft."



Sophia, your friends Gian and Jessica came to join us and there were squeals of delight and much investigating as the slime was pushed, pulled, drizzled, rolled in between hands, and transferred from hand to hand.



Having fun is an important part of learning and the experience with the slime mixture this morning was such a fun way to begin the new term. Sophia, I could see that you were happy and confident to be involved in this experience and in fact there was so much fun being had that we completely forgot about adding any colour to the mixture! We can easily create some more slime and add some colour next time.

WHAT LEARNING DO I SEE HAPPENING FOR SOPHIA

Covid 19 has certainly changed the way we live, and feeling uncertain is something that many of us are experiencing. Sophia, talking about your feelings and making plans is one way that helps us to overcome some of this uncertainty and your suggestion of making slime was a way that you could contribute your ideas and be involved. As you walked through the gates this morning I was so pleased to see that you were excited about being back at kindergarten, and being in a familiar place amongst people you trust, and in a safe environment was a magical start to your day.

Sophia, wondering and being curious is contributing to you making sense of your world and developing your own working theories. Working with the slime provided a myriad of learning opportunities and your friends were keen to be involved and explore with you. Investigating is a word that comes to mind as you experimented with different ways to transform the slime from a solid mixture to a liquid mixture, and you were a curious learner as you asked the questions "why is it runny, why does it go hard?" Sophia, as you work

with your friends and engage in complex thinking (questioning and exploring the properties of slime) you are forming your own working theories. I know that you have been playing with slime at home and this morning was an opportunity for you to explore your working theories further as you connected your previous experience at home with what was happening at kindergarten this morning. You observed that the slime at kindergarten was 'a bit different' to the one at home, but you liked how the slime at kindergarten went 'hard and soft.'

You spent quite some time playing with the slime and working alongside your friends and I wonder if this is something you would like to continue exploring further.

How do we stretch and grow this learning further?

Julia and Sam, Sophia has settled back into life at kindergarten with a positive attitude and it is exciting to see her embracing opportunities to be involved and to share her ideas. It is our intention to support Sophia to be at her learning best and we will encourage Sophia to make plans and to grow her confidence as she directs her own learning through the things that interest her.

