

“Pinecones, My Mama and The Wind”

Child: Bodhi **Age:** 35 months **Date:** Thursday, November 8th 2018



Dear Bodhi,

Today, you were so engaged with creating a pinecone mobile. First we went on a walk where you helped find some of the biggest pinecones. When it was time to walk back you wanted to carry the bag back to GiGi's. I saw that it was getting heavy for you and asked if you wanted help but you said, "No. I am strong Miss Sam." As I am setting up the activity you asked, "Miss Sam is your friend Annie coming today?" Once my friend came, we sat down at the table, and I asked you what are we making? You replied, "A Pinecone Mobile!" I then asked, "What does a pinecone mobile do?" You didn't even need time to think Bodhi because you knew right away. "It's gonna make the pinecones move. In the wind! When the wind comes it will move the pinecones!" You were so excited that you knew what was going to happen. You got to use sponges to paint with today and that definitely seemed like your favorite part. You really enjoyed using your fine motor skills in squeezing the paint out of the sponges onto the pinecone. You told me, "Look Miss Sam! What happens when I squeeze my sponge. Paint comes out." Some children painted 2 or 3 pinecones, but you enjoyed spending time and attention on one pinecone. When you finished you continued your play with sponges. Thank you Bodhi for helping clean up our area. You worked alongside James in helping clean up all the paint off our table. You are very aware of your own abilities and helped your friends get involved. When James couldn't reach the top of the table you said, "Don't worry James, I'll get it." When you finished you helped wrap the ribbon around the stick and even used your strength to hold up the stick while I tied. As we went about playing you continually refereed to our pinecone mobile, "Look Miss Sam! The pinecone mobile, it's moving!"

~Samantha Serna, California State University Channel Islands Student Teacher

What Does It Mean

Bodhi, you demonstrated great communication skills and knowledge when I asked questions about the pinecone mobile. You had been interested in the wind and continued to make great connections with the movements. Even to this day you make great observations and communicate with others what the pinecone mobile is doing. Bodhi you also have a very strong understanding of cause-and-effect. When the pinecones moved fast you recognized that the wind was going fast. You even discovered a faster way to use the sponges to paint. As you began to squeeze the sponges paint came out. You started to use this technique to cover your entire pinecone. As you continue to engage in activities you are constantly discovering new ways objects work as you play with them. You are very engaging and get a great sense of accomplishment when you make new discoveries.

You also took initiative when I asked how we were going to clean the table. You came up with the idea to get the sponges to wash the table. Bodhi you even got James to help you. You are a great team player and enjoy bringing friends into your play.

Opportunities and Possibilities

To further support your learning, I will continue to involve sponge into the environment. Having available different materials to put the sponge in and expand upon your knowledge of cause and effect. Discovering not only a sensory element but how the sponge reacts with the different materials. Providing materials that you can utilize your language skills and knowledge to predict what they will do, compared to our pinecones, in the wind. We will continue to expand upon

your memory skills about the process we took to create this mobile. We can even create a picture book to remember the steps you took.

Response:

Miss Sam I was so happy when you decided to see where the children's ideas went with this activity. To step away from the typical holiday colors to winter was a great inclusive choice. Talking about winter is hard in our environment but your explanation of wind and the temperatures gave them an idea. You were able to sit back during the painting process and let them lead. As it came together it is truly beautiful. Bodhi was very eager to connect with his mom to show her the project. Because of the timeline we had a break in between. Upon returning he was able to recall every step of the plan that you both came up with. I'm excited to see if they want to add to it as the season expands. –GiGi, mentor teacher

First, Bodhi I am so happy you are able to do so many fun and exciting things with Miss Sam. I like that you are able to talk, think and move with her! You were so excited to show me the mobile, the pinecone you painted, and explain to me why it moves. Bodhi, after you read Miss Sam's email while we were sitting outside by our fire pit, you said, "We need to make another pinecone mobile for our house because it is so windy it will move so much here". I think Miss Sam was right about how you really understand cause and effect. After reading Miss Sam's email I became more aware of your cause and effect reasoning. For example, this morning while driving to Gigi's you said, "I see dark clouds, I think it might rain" and we talked about cause and effect. In addition, I will continue to ask you to make predictions and ask question skills while also starting to use sponges during our play at home. -Mom

Revisiting Learning Story

4/15/19- *I showed Bodhi the pictures and he smiled. 'My mom and me'*

I asked him if he remembered doing this project? 'Yes it's the pinecone mobile.

I painted it with Miss Sam and it moved in the wind.'

(We recently revamped it and I wasn't sure if he would remember it)

Where is the mobile now? 'We painted it again and it's above my cozy napping bed. I'd like to paint, can we paint again?'- Funny we just painted yesterday! Lol

~Bodhi & Gigi

Family Response:

From brother, Cooper - "Bodhi, sounds like you were very busy. I wonder why you named it the pinecone mobile?"

Bodhi, "Because there is so many pinecones on it."

Cooper, "Why the mobile part?"

Bodhi, "Because there are so many pinecones that move because of the wind."

Brother, Rowan, "Bodhi, how did you know what to do?"

Bodhi, "I just did."

~Mom

DRDP Measures: SED 3, 4, and 6; LD 1, 3, and 3; COG 1, 3, 5, and 8; PMD 1 & 3