

INTEGRATING ANIMALS IN WINTER and ME

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An important aspect of children's development is learning about themselves, their family and their community, and integrating their understandings over time by revisiting these concepts and applying them in new contexts.

Children have made self portraits at several points during the year. Each time they deepen their understandings of self. We have investigated animals like ants, beavers and groundhogs, and compared their bodies, their families and their communities to ours. We have seen how they adapt to the seasons and role play some of their habits. We have loved to create our own lodges, dens and tunnels, and acted out burrowing. We are referring to our woodland animals as we create a new dimension to our feelings boards, as in "I feel like a bear", and "I am happy like a red bird", enhancing language, self-awareness and connections. Throughout we are practicing important skills - working together, taking turns, developing small-motor skills, comparing, sequencing, classifying, self-awareness, and self regulation.