

The Creation of the Bug Hotel



The children from Niwasa Head Start Pre School visit the Planting Seeds of Hope each week as part of their land-based curriculum. Many of the children in the 2016/17 class enjoyed finding bugs when they came to the land. The children heard traditional teachings from their

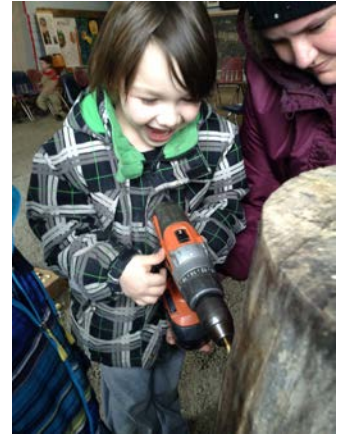
cultural facilitators on how important it is for us to protect and care for the natural world. They also learned how important bugs are and the many gifts that bugs share with all of us. The children slowly discovered how to search for bugs in gentle and responsible ways, and how to observe them without hurting them.



Later in the year, the children were asked if they would like to create something that would bring joy and happiness to themselves, other people and Mother Earth. The children decided that they would like

to build homes for the bugs. The children worked with their educators to research different “bug homes”. They drew pictures of what they wanted their bug homes to look like. The children worked with entomologist Carlene Gallant who taught them about different types of bugs, and what kinds of materials bugs like to use for their homes.





The children began construction by drilling holes into old stumps of wood so that the bugs had a place to curl up, sleep and lay their eggs. The children's families were invited to the land to work with their children and the educators to create a "bug hotel". They walked

the land and gathered natural materials to use for their project. The children arranged their materials inside a wooden frame and shared stories about all of the bugs that they believed would come to live in their new home. The children went on to track many of the bugs that they were finding on the land and helped to design a "bug identification chart," which continues to be used year after year with the new children that visit the land. Their bug chart illustrates many of the insects and creatures that live on the land and in the gardens and compost pile.





Children's Lands Canada would like to thank the Niwasa Head Start Pre School Class for sharing their gifts and wisdom with our community. The bug hotel that they created continues to be a place of shelter and refuge for the many insects and pollinators that visit the land. It also remains a popular attraction for visiting children and families who come to the land to learn about what other children have created to help Mother Earth and the natural world.

The bug chart that Niwasa's PreSchool class created seems to motivate new children to search for bugs and learn about the gifts that they carry.

The kindness and advocacy that the Niwasa children showed to all of our insects is an inspirational example of how we can choose to take action - big or small - that will positively impact the natural world.

