

Context: Dropping provocation

Nursery
Age 3-4

Title: Cupcake case dropping

Adult-initiated, then independent child exploration

Children dropped cupcake cases from above their heads. They dropped the cases from an upright position and watched them fall. Once they landed the children retrieved them and repeated the action.
L (3) "Quicker" he observed.

Adult: What if you turn it the other way?

Adult demonstrates turning the case. The children turn the cases to an upside-down position and drop from above their heads/at head height. U carefully rests the case upside down in his hand, balancing the case as he raises his hand. He then drops it.

L holds the case at a lower height and throws the case from a low height to an increased height and watched the trajectory of the case as it flew through the air.

U squatted down and jumped up and as he jumped threw the case underarm.

Adult: You can try any way you like.

The oldest child (E) experiments with holding the case upright and moving the case downwards in a falling direction without letting go. Halfway down she then lets go, watching as the case fell.

E (4): What about upside down like that?

Adult: What happened to it?

E: It went like that.

Adult: It tipped over.

The two boys (3) threw them in the air (underarm) across a larger area. Following them as they landed then continuing to throw them in the air. Repeating the process and exclaiming excitedly.

Adult: What happens if you scrunch it a little bit like this. Do you think it will go faster? How do you think it will fall?

The children scrunched the cases and in the air (overarm).

Adult: What about if you squeeze it as small as you can?

EF smoothed out the case until it was completely flat.

L then smoothed his case out, observing his peer.

U Retrieved his case from the floor. "Look I can't press it up." He attempted to smooth the case.

Possible future provision/next steps

Explore dropping other materials and different shapes.

Learning outcomes include (Birth to 5, Technology):

Range 3: *Anticipates repeated sounds, sights and actions.*

Range 5: *Plays with a range of materials to learn cause and effect.*

Characteristics of effective learning – Thinking creatively & critically: *Make predictions. Test their ideas.*

Example from Atelier Nursery, Chippenham, Wiltshire

