Observation sample 3: Isaac’s fireworks

Observation — 17 April

Isaac has not been particularly interested in painting. However, with the introduction of the individual paint pumps and paint palettes he was really keen to try mixing his own colours. Isaac talked about making ‘fireworks’ like he had seen at a local event: ‘I want red and yellow to be the sparky bits but maybe a bit of blue like the dark time. You know, night time.’

Why is this significant?

This learning experience really demonstrates Isaac’s growing independence, his willingness to persevere with a challenge (see photos!) and his interest in painting. He’s also managed the physical challenge of pushing the pump down on the paint container.

Response

Celebrate Isaac’s achievements and perseverance with the paint pump. Encourage him to share his experiences of mixing the colours to achieve a special effect. If he is interested in exploring fireworks further, discuss ways to represent the explosion of colours against the night sky using a variety of art materials.

Thoughts: Perhaps introduce Isaac to the concept of creating fireworks through the paint program on the computer using the drawing tools as another way to represent his ideas?

The teacher uses some relevant background information about Isaac to set the scene for her observation. She also records some conversations verbatim.

These comments describe why this moment captured the attention of the teacher and made it worthy of note.

These details show the teacher’s thinking and possibilities for action — in practice these may just be a few dot points.

These images support the teacher’s observation of the physical effort Isaac is making to organise materials for himself.