

My Favourite Book – A Learning Story

by Carina



Pietro, I watched as you went over to the bookshelf and started looking at the covers of the books. You paused at a copy of 'What the Ladybird Heard' which was your favourite book last term. You picked it up briefly, looking at the cover, then replaced it and carried on scanning. You soon discovered the book you were looking for, hidden behind a larger book - it is your new favourite book and is called 'Learn your Animals'.

It has different sorts of animals, categorised by where you can find them, for example 'In the sky' or 'In the jungle'. You took it over to the little trampoline and settled down, looking through the pages, studying the illustrations. Sometimes you looked silently, at other times you seemed to be chatting away to yourself, although it wasn't possible for me to make out individual words or sounds.



My thoughts about your learning

Pietro, you joined our class in January, and it wasn't long before we noticed how much you loved animals! Sometimes you would line all the animals up, other times you would carry one around with you as you explored other activities. If you were feeling tired, especially in the afternoons, you would cuddle up with the soft toy animals. You also loved to look at the book called 'What the Ladybird Heard' and would often turn straight to the page where all the animals are in a row.

This term, we have had the opportunity to see some real creatures close up, firstly the chicks in April, and then the caterpillars more recently. I saw that you love real animals too! You were so excited, but also realised that you had to be gentle.

You have loved looking at this book, sharing it with Simi as you lay on the beanbag, or taking it out into the garden and reclining on a big cardboard box with it. Since I observed you looking at this book in the classroom. I think maybe you have loved this book a little bit too much, as it is now in several pieces, but you still love studying the pictures.



This is how I see your learning grow

Simi told me that when you were sharing the book with her, you clearly named some of the animals, such as 'frog' and 'gorilla'. Meanwhile, I have heard you making animal sounds sometimes.

We will use your interest in animals to help to develop your vocabulary and also your shared connection with others, for example by playing turn taking games with the animal picture cards. We will look out for some other animal-based books for you to look at, maybe some with photos of real animals as well as drawn ones.

Pietro, you will be staying with us in Willow next year and we are really looking forward to seeing how your learning will progress.

