

Wonder Web

Central Wonder:

"Why do shadows follow me everywhere?"

Context: Sparked during outdoor play when the child noticed their shadow stretching across the pavement.

Sub-questions:

- "Do shadows sleep?"
- "Can shadows talk?"
- "Why are they black?"
- "Do animals have shadows too?"

Children's Theories:

- "They're scared of the sun." – Ava, age 4
- "They're my twin." – Leo, age 5
- "They want to play tag." – Maya, age 3
- "They're magic and live on the ground." – Zane, age 4

Evidence:

- Photos of children tracing their shadows with chalk
- Drawings of "shadow friends" with names and personalities
- Transcripts of group discussion during mat time
- Role play: children acted out being shadows and light

Curriculum Links:

- EYLF Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
- "Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another."
- EYLF Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators
- "Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media."

Next Steps:

- Set up a light and shadow exploration station with torches and translucent materials
- Invite families to share cultural stories about shadows or light
- Create a collaborative "Shadow Book" with child captions and illustrations
- Introduce basic science concepts: light sources, reflection, and blocking