



## Defining and maximising space

### Diffinio a gwneud y mwyaf o'r gwaglyn

The ideas and inspiration below features the practice and work of members of the project team.

For more information to help you explore and reflect further see our section on creating effective spaces.

# Cardboard boxes!

## Blychau cardbord!



Sarah Harper watched how her children were using the space available and identified some unused spaces that could be improved.

Adding a box and cushions into a nook by the sofa was popular. It was used as a quiet area. Some of the older children used it as a base to look at books. Some of the younger ones just liked feeling the fabric, exploring with hands, mouths and faces! Children added to the space and took their snacks and drinks in there.

Gwylodd Sarah Harper sut roedd ei phlant yn defnyddio'r lle a oedd ar gael a nododd rai lleoedd heb eu defnyddio y gellid eu gwella. Roedd ychwanegu blwch a chlustogau i mewn i gilfach gan y sofffa yn boblogaidd. Cafodd ei defnyddio fel man tawel.

Roedd rhai o'r plant hŷn yn ei ddefnyddio fel sylfaen i edrych ar lyfrau. Roedd rhai o'r plant iau yn hoffi cyffwrdd â'r ffabrig, archwilio gyda dwylo, cegau ac wyneb! Gwnaeth y plant ychwanegu at y lle a gwnaethant gymryd eu byrbrydau a'u diodydd i mewn yno.

## Behind the sofa Y tu ôl i'r sofffa



Sioned Roberts created this really simple but effective space behind the sofa. The addition of some net material and a cushion made it a perfect semi-private base for play. A place to retreat to. A place to watch from. A place to rest.

Creodd Sioned Roberts y lle syml ond effeithiol hwn y tu ôl i'r sofffa. Roedd ychwanegu rhywfaint o ddeunydd net a chlustog yn ei gwneud yn ganolfan lled-breifat berffaith ar gyfer chwarae. Lle i encilio iddo. Lle i wyllo ohono. Lle i orffwys.

# Teepees

## Pebyll



Sarah tried out building teepees in the garden. She provided various materials, hazel and den making clips. The older children really enjoyed getting involved in this, and the activity triggered all sorts of problem-solving discussions. The structures were then used as a base for their play. Sarah used a sheer fabric on the teepees for the younger children. They enjoyed exploring the textures in the structure.

Gwnaeth Sarah roi cynnig ar adeiladu pebyll yn yr ardd. Darparodd amrywiol ddefnyddiau, ffyn cyll a chlipiau gwneud ffau. Gwnaeth y plant hŷn fwynhau cymryd rhan yn hyn yn fawr, a sbardunodd y gweithgaredd bob math o drafodaethau datrys problemau. Yna defnyddiwyd y strwythurau fel sylfaen ar gyfer eu chwarae. Defnyddiodd Sarah ffabrig tryloyw ar y pebyll ar gyfer y plant iau. Gwnaethant fwynhau archwilio'r gweadau yn y strwythur.



# Developing a decked space

## Datblygu lle dec



Amanda Calloway audited the whole of her space and decided to focus on developing her outside decked space. She said, 'I felt from my observations it is obvious that the same care and attention to detail I have given the indoor space needs to be given to the outdoor areas. Children currently have the ability to move resources between the indoor and outdoor covered area but it would be easier and make play more free flowing if these resources were also available outside. With this in mind using their loose parts in whatever way they choose would become easier.

Observations of the children show whilst they are eager to venture onto the outdoor deck they often don't remain there for any length of time. There is a comfy seating area, but this is really aimed at the adults so making more comfy areas that are easily accessible by the children may help. There is also a feeling of the space being wide open and therefore maybe not offering the sense of confinement the children enjoy.

My ideas for now need to be non-permanent and able to be removed and put away each day. Using the resources we have a pop-up space on the decked area was planned. Using a wooden clothes maiden and fabric to provide screening "walls" and a sense of containment.

Using the screening to make a smaller area encouraged the children to spend more time out on the deck. They enjoy the feeling of being “hidden from view” even if we use sheer fabric that can be seen through. It almost gives them a sense of freedom that they are not constantly being watched by adults and consequently they become more relaxed in their play. Conversations between the 3 and 2 year old were free flowing and appeared more in depth than normal when I would be in the room with them. I was there of course but to them it was as if I was not.

The children were completely free to come and go as they chose but the eldest noticed a bird in the tree in the garden. They were able to go off and find their binoculars to try and see the birds better and they spent a great deal of time birdwatching. They did not know what the birds were called but again within easy access is a bird book which we were able to look through together to work out what the bird was. Totally engaged self-directed learning.'

Archwiliodd Amanda Calloway ei lle cyfan a phenderfynodd ganolbwyntio ar ddatblygu ei lle dec y tu allan. Dywedodd, 'Roeddwn i'n teimlo o fy arsylwadau ei bod hi'n amlwg bod angen rhoi'r un gofal a sylw i fanylion rydw i wedi'u rhoi i'r lle dan do i'r ardaloedd awyr agored. Ar hyn o bryd mae gan blant y gallu i symud adnoddau rhwng yr ardal y tu mewn a'r ardal awyr agored dan do ond byddai'n haws a gwneud chwarae'n llifo'n fwy rhydd pe bai'r adnoddau hyn ar gael y tu allan hefyd. Gyda hyn, byddai defnyddio eu rhannau rhydd ym mha bynnag ffordd maen nhw'n ei ddewis yn dod yn haws.

Mae arsylwadau o'r plant yn dangos tra eu bod yn awyddus i fentro i'r dec awyr agored, yn aml nid ydyn nhw'n aros yno am unrhyw gyfnod o amser. Mae yna ardal eistedd gyfforddus, ond mae hyn wedi'i anelu at yr oedolion mewn gwirionedd felly gallai gwneud ardaloedd mwy cyfforddus sy'n hawdd i'r plant eu cyrchu helpu. Mae yna hefyd deimlad bod y lle yn agored ac felly efallai ddim yn cynnig yr ymdeimlad o gyfyngiad y mae'r plant yn ei fwynhau.

Ar hyn o bryd mae angen i'm syniadau fod dros dro a gallu cael eu tynnu a'u rhoi i ffwrdd bob dydd. Gan ddefnyddio'r adnoddau, gwnaethom gynllunio lle naid ar yr ardal dec. Gan ddefnyddio morwyn dillad pren a ffabrig i ddarparu "waliau" sgrinio ac ymdeimlad o gyfyngiant.

Roedd defnyddio'r sgrinio i wneud ardal lai yn annog y plant i dreulio mwy o amser allan ar y dec. Maen nhw'n mwynhau'r teimlad o fod yn "gudd o'r golwg" hyd yn oed os ydym yn defnyddio ffabrig tryloyw y gellir ei weld drwyddo. Mae bron yn rhoi ymdeimlad o ryddid iddynt nad ydyn nhw'n cael eu gwyllo'n gyson gan oedolion ac o ganlyniad maen nhw'n dod yn fwy hamddenol yn eu chwarae. Roedd sgysiau rhwng y plentyn 3 a 2 oed yn llifo'n rhydd ac yn ymddangos yn fwy dwfn nag arfer pan fyddwn i yn yr ystafell gyda nhw. Roeddwn i yno wrth gwrs ond iddyn nhw roedd fel pe na bawn i.

Roedd y plant yn hollol rydd i fynd a dod fel y dewison nhw ond sylwodd yr hynaf ar aderyn yn y goeden yn yr ardd. Roeddent yn gallu mynd i ddod o hyd i'w ysbienddrych i geisio gweld yr adar yn well a threulion nhw lawer iawn o amser yn gwyllo adar. Nid oeddent yn gwybod beth oedd enw'r adar ond unwaith eto o fewn cyrraedd hawdd mae llyfr adar yr oeddem yn gallu edrych drwyddo gyda'n gilydd i weithio allan beth oedd yr aderyn. Dysgu hunangyfeiriedig ymgysylltiedig llwyr.'

# Under the stairs

## O dan y grisiau



Ruth Davies reflected on some unused space under the stairs, 'I've observed that the children don't use this area, so I've opened it up. I've added a mat along the floor, added books, some soft toys and pillows. I would like to define this space as somewhere quiet the children can meet and look at books.'

This space was quite simple to make. I noticed as soon as I opened this space up the children used it straight away. The toddlers sat on the mat and picked up the small books I'd put in a basket. It still needs to be developed. Maybe I could put in some soft lighting.' Importantly Ruth continued to evolve the space based on her observations of children using it. 'My understairs space is mainly used by the one year old, he loves to crawl into this space and investigate what I've added to the basket, a torch a magnifying glass and felt masks. I have observed the older children (reception age) using cushions and a blanket to enclose the space, creating a semi-private place.'

As the weather has become warmer, the children have preferred to use the outside area. My thinking is that the area under the stairs will be used during the autumn and winter months when the nights are darker. My plan is to introduce some lighting and add more open-ended object sensory objects.'



Myfyriodd Ruth Davies ar rywfaint o le heb ei ddefnyddio o dan y grisiau, 'Rwyf wedi arsylwi nad yw'r plant yn defnyddio'r ardal hon, felly rwyf wedi ei hagor. Rydw i wedi ychwanegu mat ar hyd y llawr, ychwanegu llyfrau, rhai teganau meddal a gobenyddion. Hoffwn ddiffinio'r lle hwn fel rhywle tawel y gall y plant gwrdd ac edrych ar lyfrau.

Roedd y lle hwn yn eithaf syml i'w wneud. Sylwais cyn gynted ag yr agorais y lle hwn, roedd y plant yn ei ddefnyddio ar unwaith. Eisteddodd y plant bach ar y mat a chodi'r llyfrau bach rydw i wedi'u rhoi mewn basged. Mae angen ei ddatblygu o hyd. Efallai y gallwn i roi rhywfaint o oleuadau meddal i mewn.'

Yn bwysig, parhaodd Ruth i esblygu'r lle ar sail ei harsylwadau o blant yn ei ddefnyddio. 'Mae fy lle dan do yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n bennaf gan y plentyn blwydd oed, mae wrth ei fodd yn cropian i'r lle hwn ac ymchwilio i'r hyn rydw i wedi'i ychwanegu at y faged, fflachlamp chwyddwydr a masgiau ffelt. Rwyf wedi arsylwi ar y plant hŷn (oedran derbyn) yn defnyddio clustogau a blanced i amgáu'r lle, gan greu lle lled-breifaf.

Wrth i'r tywydd gynhesu, mae'n well gan y plant ddefnyddio'r ardal y tu allan. Fy meddwl i yw y bydd yr ardal o dan y grisiau yn cael ei defnyddio yn ystod misoedd yr hydref a'r gaeaf pan fydd y nosweithiau'n dywyllach. Fy nghynllun yw cyflwyno rhywfaint o oleuadau, ychwanegu mwy o wrthrychau synhwyraidd gwrthrychau penagored.'

# Reflect!

## Myfyriwch!

- Do you have any unused spaces in your environment that could easily be transformed like this?
- Do you have enough flexible resources to create structures and screening? How could you enhance your collection?
- Do you give your outside space as much attention as inside? Does outside connect with inside? Have a good look at your space and identify areas for development.
- Do you have any existing, naturally defined spaces you could open-up and enhance? How might you evolve them over time?
- A oes gennych unrhyw leoedd heb eu defnyddio yn eich amgylchedd y byddai'n hawdd eu trawsnewid fel hyn?
- Oes gennych chi ddigon o adnoddau hyblyg i greu strwythurau a sgrinio? Sut allech chi wella'ch casgliad?
- Ydych chi'n rhoi cymaint o sylw i'ch gofod allanol â'r tu mewn? A yw'r tu allan yn cysylltu â'r tu mewn? Edrychwch yn dda ar eich lle a nodwch feysydd i'w datblygu.
- A oes gennych unrhyw fannau sydd eisoes wedi'u diffinio'n naturiol y gallech eu hagog a'u gwella? Sut allech chi eu hesblygu dros amser?