

Hewitt's Creek Child Care Mud Kitchen Challenge

Video <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7W3cPDWy9x7La288A>

Before doing the renovations on our mud kitchen the children didn't use the space very often or for long periods of time. When we were presented the challenge of updating our space we eagerly came together to come up with some creative and cost-effective ways to update our kitchen. We repurposed almost all of the items you will view in our video, including the chalk board, water dispenser, flower pots, faucet, microwave, coffeemaker, lattice, rocks, pinecones, shells, corks, baskets, wood, and even the tree cookies for the mud kitchen sign were hand sawed from a cedar log we found on one of our forest adventures! The only items we purchased were hooks and flowers!

As the changes began to slowly happen we noticed the children becoming more and more interested in playing in the space. The microwave was a huge hit right away and most children spent the entire outside time opening and closing it and making food in it. Once the water dispenser was added it gave the children the freedom to make their mud as runny as they wanted and also allowed them the ability to wash their hands or dishes if they so desired. The rocks with food drawn on, pinecones, shells, corks and other loose parts gave the children more materials than just mud to be imaginative with.

In the pictures attached the children can be seen using all parts of the mud kitchen. One child filled a pot with loose parts and put it on the stove to cook with the help of another child. A child was working on his hand eye coordination by serving pinecones onto plates using tongs. One friend was using spoons to scoop shells from a bucket onto the table and back. A few children were exploring the mud in the sink and adding water to it in various ways and mixing it. Another child can be seen placing a shovel full of mud into the microwave and afterwards he pressed a few buttons and said he was making dinner.

We can't wait to see what imaginative ways our children will use the mud kitchen as time goes on and we hope to continue adding new exciting items as we think of them! **GET OUTSIDE & GET MUDDY!**



