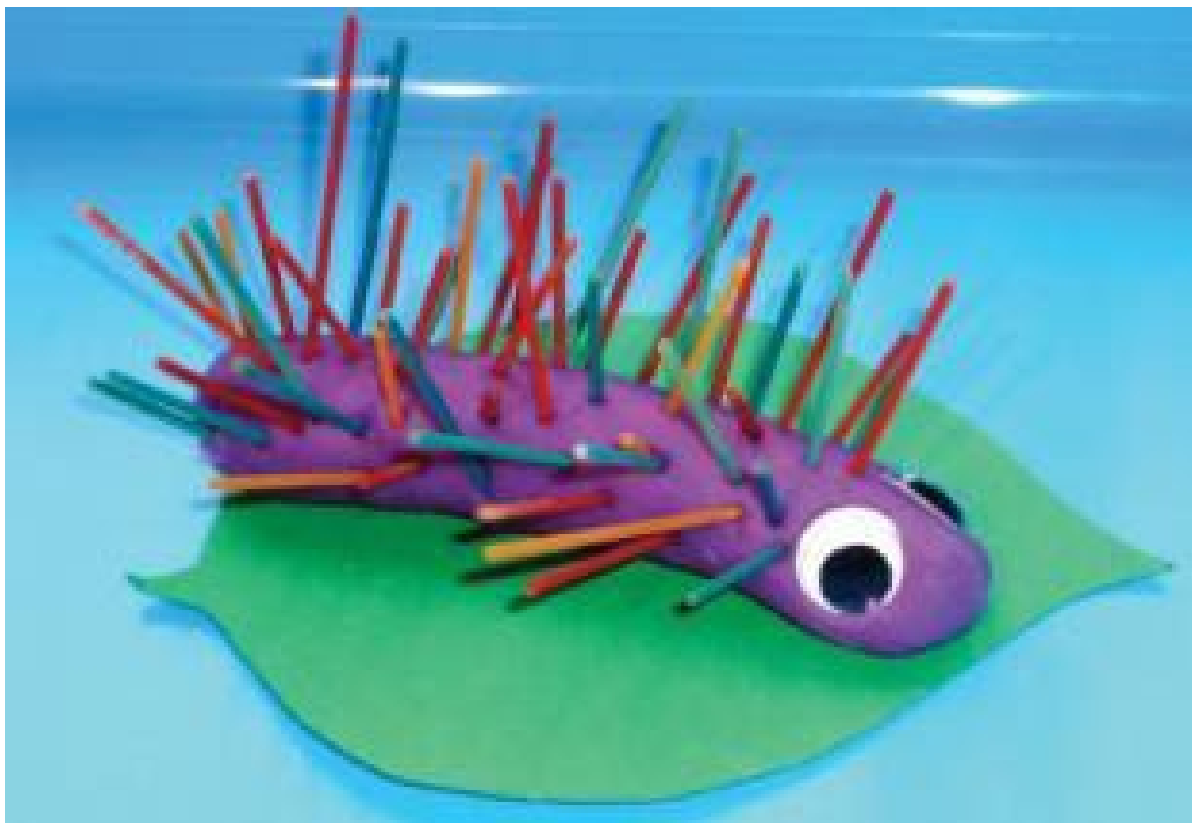


# Attention control and transitions

(Based on an article by Gina Davies)

In the final stage, children take this one step further by learning how to focus on you as lead adult, and then shift their attention to an individual activity before refocusing it again to include the whole group.

Children and adults watch you demonstrate an activity, then they each get their own little box of materials and go off to try it out for themselves. For example, they might watch you create a spiky playdough caterpillar, a spaghetti monster or a pretend cake. Then they all retire to the same table, unpack the little jars and containers in their kit and get busy. When time is up, they come back to the circle to share what they have done.



The results usually look terrific, but that is not what matters the most. It's the process that counts. From learning to watch a wind-up toy for a few moments, the children have progressed to being able to follow a demonstration, go away and do it independently and then return to show it as a member of a group. The development of their attention skills has made that possible.