



Midland Road
Nursery School

and lead for

Lister Park
Children's Centre Cluster Services

Working with Northern Ballet

Early Years Project

Introduction

Northern Ballet is one of the best-loved dance companies in the world. They engage a diverse range of people through passionate story-telling.

Northern Ballet worked with 5 settings within the Lister Park Children's Centre Cluster area with children aged 3-4years over a 5 week period.

Using the stories '*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*' and '*Where the Wild Things Are*' as a stimulus for the sessions, they explored how dance can be introduced to children through multisensory and movement activities.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen

Helen Oxenbury

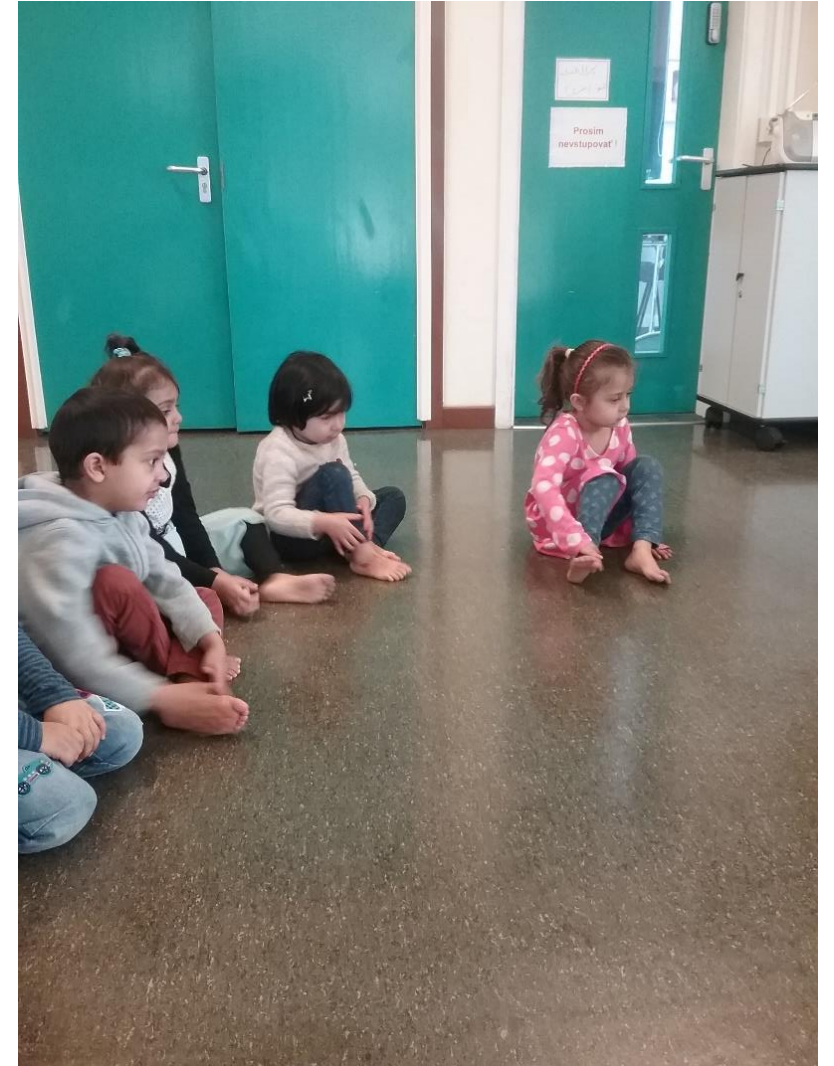


WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

The sessions
always
started with
a warm up.



At Abbey Green
Children's Centre
and Nursery School

Children explored '*a deep cold river*'
made colder with ice
cubes!



Lilycroft Nursery School made big waves.



Uh-uh! Mud!





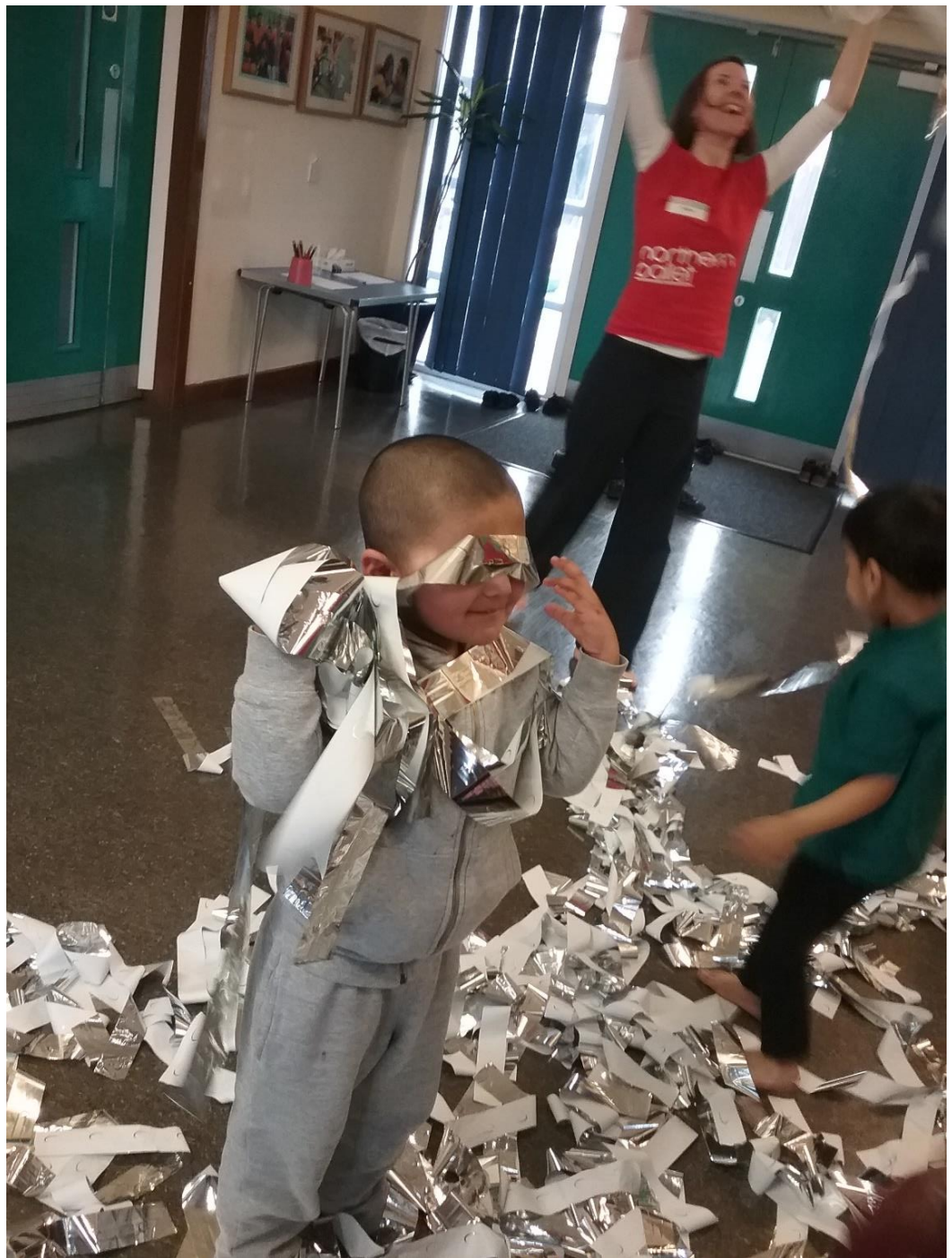
A big dark forest.. On no! We've got to go through it!





A swirling whirling
snowstorm

Hoooo woooo!
Hoooo woooo!



Lilycroft
Nursery
School made
a display of
the session so
others could
see what the
children had
been up to.



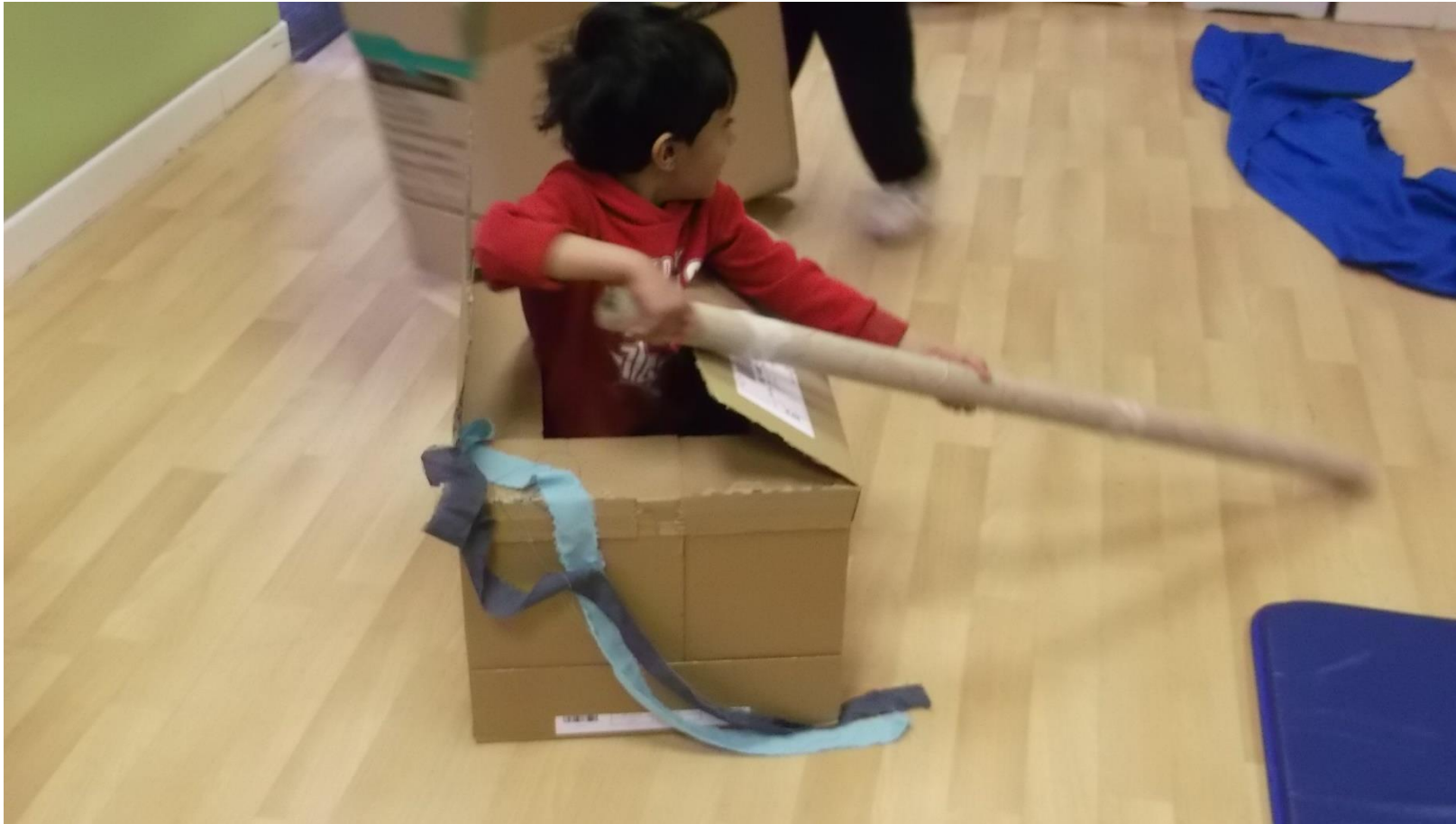
Midland Road Nursery School used the book *'Where the Wild Things Are'*



The
Forest
that
grew in
Max's
room



In a private boat like Max the children set off...





Crossing bridges and rivers.....





*'To the
place
where the
wild things
are'*



And then back home....



To rest.



Nursery children from Frizinghall Primary school and Beckfoot Heaton Primary school also took part.

Comments received from them

'The children never got bored and were always intrigued to what was going to happen next'

'The sessions really helped to bring our topic alive and ensured the children really understood all aspects of the story.'

'We chose the children who are quite shy and quiet, by the end of the 5 weeks the children were using a lot of new vocabulary and a boost in confidence.'

More comments from staff

‘This has been a wonderful experience for the children’

‘Children are not worried to get dirty in the mud now’

‘Children were hesitant to join in to start with by the end of the 5 weeks they were so confident and loved joining in. These were children who never join in group activities at their school’

