

Behavioral transcript of the children's play

The children in this video are about 1 - 1.5 years old. They have been together since they were infants (around 12 months). The box was brought into the community space as part of a school wide investigation.

Wyatt in orange striped shirt; **Josephine** in green shirt purple pants; **Adaline** in floral dress; **Finley** in blue and grey striped shirt

00:00 to 01:00

Finley likes to enter the box and sit upright in the back corner. As the children enter then leave he will crawl out of the box only to enter it again to sit upright in the corner looking out. He does this three times in the first minute of the clip.

Adaline crawls into the box, exits, and then walks around to the back side of the box that is closed. She returns to the front opening, falls down, stands up and goes to the back of the box again. The camera does not capture what she is doing but the box shakes so she might have hit the back of the box. She returns to the open front of the box, enters the hollow space, bends over and makes a sound perhaps at Finley who is sitting inside the box in the corner. She raises her hands to touch the inside ceiling of the box looking at Wyatt, also in the box. She turns and taps the side of the box, then turns 360 degrees and taps the back of the box again.

Josephine enters the front part of the open box, sits briefly looking at Adeline and Finley sitting in the back of the box. She throws her arms up and runs away from the box toward the left back side of it and screams with glee as she runs back to the front of the box joining the other children. This time she enters deeper into the box to join Finley (sitting in the corner) and Wyatt (standing in the other corner). She then sits and leans against the right wall of the inside of the box as if to establish "this is where I want to sit." Then she rises and exits the box making a sound as she leaves. She runs around to the back of the box. She then returns with some speed to the front again. She enters pushing her way through the others to reach the back of the box. She makes some vocalizations while doing this.

Wyatt exits the box as the clip begins, turns quickly to re-enter the box with a gleeful scream. He backs into the full recess of the box, and turns to look at the children about to enter the box. He exits and vocalizes to the teacher (camera person) as he toddles near her. He turns to re-enter the box, but stops to clap his hands when he hears Josephine's gleeful scream as she runs from the back of the box to the front. Then he enters the box all the way to the back where he slaps the back wall of the box. Finley makes a sound and this seems to be the reason Wyatt makes a gleeful scream and claps his hands together a number of times. When Wyatt exits the box he makes a repetitive sound that echoes in the large theater room. He looks at himself in the theater mirror on the wall as he makes these sounds. He sees the entrance to the box, claps his hands excitedly as he re-enters the openness of the box. He stands in the back left corner and claps his hands making a gleeful sound. He moves to leave the box, bumps into Josephine and falls into a sitting position.

01:00 to 02:00

Finley crawls out of the box from his sitting position in the back right corner. He re-enters, but steps aside to let Adaline exit. He turns to exit from his paused position half way into the box. He follows Adaline to the back of the box. You can see in the mirror that they pause in front of the closed end of the box. Could it be they are noting the contrast between the open end and the closed end? Finley runs back to the front of the box and runs into Josephine as he rounds the corner. They both fall to the floor and sort of laugh at their collision. Wyatt crawls into the box and sits in his place in the back right corner. He crawls to the front of the box, stands and exits upright. He looks back at Wyatt who is in the back of the box standing in the back right corner. When Wyatt leaves Finley enters, this time "tagging" the back of the box only to immediately exit with some bumping into others in the process. Once out of the box he runs around to the back of the box as he has done before, and returns from there immediately.

Adaline tags the side and back of the box and then notices Wyatt who has fallen to a sitting position. She tags the back wall one more time and then exits the box. She runs to the back of the box and holds her hands to the back wall (seen in mirror perspective) and steps away when Finley comes next to her. Finley leaves a bit before Adaline does. She comes back to the front of the box. She slowly enters the box, stands in the back left corner, and makes a repeating sound. She exits, stands near the front left edge of the box and orients to Josephine who is making some gleeful sounds. When Josephine passes, Adaline runs to the back of the box. She slaps the back of the box and returns to the front to join the other children. She waits for the traffic to clear and enters the box making a sound to Wyatt standing in the box on the right. She exits the box running to the back. This time when she slaps the back of the box it moves a bit because no one is in the box at that time.

Josephine exits the box with some speed and makes a gleeful sound directed toward the teacher. She goes off camera for a few seconds. She enters the box, now empty. She tags the back of the box. She runs out of the box, bumps Finley and they both fall to a sitting position. She stands and sees herself in the mirror. She loops around to the back of the box and slaps it a few times. She returns to the front and makes a sound while looking at Adaline. She enters the box goes to the back and slaps the inside back wall of the box. As she exits the box she turns to the right instead of the left and thereby notices her image in the studio mirror. She holds her hands up to the mirror, makes a slight sound, turns to enter the box now containing all four of the children. With some effort she pushes around two of the children to reach the back wall and slaps it twice. After Adaline and Wyatt stumble out of the box Josephine follows them out.

Wyatt picks himself up after being bumped. He exits the box and makes gleeful sounds as he exits. He moves off camera for a few seconds, then enters the box at full run and tags the back of the box immediately after Josephine had done the same. He falls, perhaps coincidentally, at the same time that Finley and Josephine collide and fall. They all laugh. He crawls out, stands, turns to face the inside of the open box and claps his hands. He enters the box, goes to the back right corner, touches the wall and turns to face the other children outside the box. He waits a bit and then comes running out full speed smiling. He moves off camera, then runs back into the box and tags the back wall. He toddles out of the box and makes a sound when he clears the box.

02:00 to 03:00

Finley goes to the outside back of the box and sees Adaline tap the box that she then pushes a bit. Josephine continues to push and Finley steps out of the way. As Josephine pushes the big box forward, Finley grabs the front open edge and guides the box toward the wall of the room. Wyatt is temporarily trapped but backs away from the opening of the box. Finley jams his hand between the wall and the box to push the box away from the wall so he can enter the box, which he does. The camera jostles and we cannot see what happens, but we then see that Finley leaves the box on the right side only to return and to re-enter the box now rather close to the wall. He continues to sit in the box making it impossible for the box to be moved by Wyatt or Adaline.

Adaline goes to the back outside of the box, slaps it and notices that the box moves a bit (no one inside). She pushes it forward deliberately a foot or so. Josephine joins this effort and pushes it hard moving toward the wall of the room. Adaline and Josephine push the box until the wall of the room blocks it. Adaline moves to the front of the box and seeks to enter the open end but the box is too close to the wall. Josephine comes and pushes the box away from the wall and crawls in. With the box now a body's width away from the wall Adaline starts to enter the box but changes her mind and comes away from the box's opening. Someone is pushing on the side of the box, maybe Wyatt.

Josephine runs out of the box, loops around to the outside back of the box and starts to push the box forward as she sees, via Adaline's push, that the box is moveable. She pushes it all the way to the wall of the room and then pushes it on the side for some reason. Her side push does cause the opening of the box to fit flush with the wall of the room. She walks away from the box, now closed by the wall of the room, hooks her thumbs under her armpits and makes a sound as she walks away from the box, as if she does not know what to do. She sees that Adaline and Finley have created a space between the box and the

wall, so she returns to the open end of the box. She crawls between the wall and the front edges of the box, vocalizes to Finley who is coming from the other side and then they both enter the box. She then exits on the right side of the box in the space between the box and the wall of the room.

Wyatt exits the box and vocalizes to the teacher. He runs back to enter the box, but when the box advances toward him (children pushing from the rear) he sidesteps the box. While he stands the box comes closer and closer to him. He vocalizes as if to indicate he does not like this moving box and steps out of the way of its advance. He positions himself with his back against the wall of the room and watches the other children push and move the big box. He moves in front of the teacher and he may cause the teacher's camera to jostle (02:38). Mostly off camera we see a hand, most likely Wyatt's pull on the side of the box as if to improve access to the box that is still close to the wall of the room.

00:03 to 00:04 shift to description of the group

Adaline pushes on the box but it does not move because Finley is inside. Josephine and Finley wedge their way behind the box that is very close to the studio mirrors on the wall. Mostly by the effort of Josephine they start to push the box completely across the room to the other side. All the children except Wyatt join in this group effort. The box trips on a raised seam in the floor and stops. Finley turns on the overhead projector but then steps away from it and pushes on the closed rear of the box while Josephine pushes on the side facing the camera view. Josephine's attempts are thwarted because of the wall of the room, but Finley's push moves the box laterally parallel to the wall. Adaline watches, claps her hands and then moves away as they work on moving the box. Wyatt has been off camera during this minute-segment. With the box sort of stuck and the opening accessible, Finley walks from the back to the front and enters upright into the box. Someone outside makes a sound, Finley exits and is met by Wyatt. They both enter the box. Finley goes to his preferred corner and sits for a bit.

00:04 to 00:05

Wyatt joins Finley deep inside the box. Josephine is pushing hard on the side, but the box does not move since two children are inside. Josephine with a lot of vocalization comes around from the side of the box and enters the box where Finley is still sitting in his corner. Adaline walks in the tight space between the box and the wall, goes around the rear of the box and returns to the front again. She looks at Josephine and Finley who are laying and sitting on the inside floor of the box. Perhaps she does not enter because the box looks crowded. She does her circumnavigation of the box again retuning to look into the open end of the box. While she does this, Wyatt enters the box. Wyatt looks like he wants his own space in the box but Finley is in the way. Wyatt claps his hands several times perhaps to express he is not getting what he wants. He leaves without finding his own space next to the back wall of the box. Now Adaline circumnavigates the box, moving counter clockwise instead of clockwise as before. As she emerges from the narrow passage between the box and the wall she looks into the box to see the children and utters a stylized sound. Some of the other children may make this sound as well.

05:00 to end at 07:00

This stylized "ah ha ah ha" is picked up by a number of the other children. From this point on the children seem to be more aware of each other's actions and there ensues a period of imitation on the open floor, first with Finley laying on his back. Josephine sees Finley on his back so she joins him on her back. Then Adaline follows suit. Wyatt has become interested in a small plastic ball that he pitches across the floor and then runs after it. Finley and Josephine run into the box, Finley exits and lies on the floor near Adaline. Both of them raise their feet up but do not see each other do this. This could be a routine from previous play (see video, [Young Toddlers Imitate Each Other](#)). Finley runs into the box, stands in his preferred corner, exits and then notices that Adaline is pointing to a black spot of the floor. They point at that spot and another one as if to share "there is a spot on the floor." Finley looks like he is trying to determine if the black thing is moveable (an object or a spot). They continue their inspection of these spots on the floor for a few more seconds as a pair. There is some divided interest between the box and the overhead projector. Notice that Finley waits for Wyatt to reach the front of the box so that they can enter the box together. As the unique features of this big box become more familiar it seems that their play becomes increasingly social.