**Setting B, Thursday 7th December, 2017, Fieldnotes of Researcher 2**

***Christmas trees and green screen films***

Today was a repeat of the 5th December, in that the focus was to enable children to create the lights for their Christmas trees.

As on Tuesday, the children managed the process much more confidently than with previous work on circuits. The task was very popular, with six or more children working around the table at times. Again, the flashing lights proved to be very popular.

At one point, Anna turned down the lights and the flashing trees were placed in a line on a table. The children then came to the table and tried to identify the trees they had made.

The trees were all individual, even thought they had been created in the same way. The laser cutting process had been very successful, but I wished there had been some way to convey the process of doing this to the children. I had asked John to take a video of himself using the laser cutter to create the trees, but he had not had time to do so. It might be of value in future projects to use a portable vinyl cutter to create objects from other materials, so the children could view this process in action.

I decided that it would be good fun to create green screen films of children signing Christmas songs in front of images of the flashing Christmas tree forests. I asked a few children if they wanted to do this, and they were enthusiastic. I placed a large green sheet inside the quiet room, so that we would not get in the way of other activities. Emma and Colleen were the first to participate. I helped them to take photographs of the Christmas tree forest. I then filmed them in from of the green sheet, singing “Jingle Bells’. We placed the video in front of the forest using the app ‘Green Screen by Do Ink.’ The girls loved this, and soon we had gathered a group of other children who all wanted to make their own Christmas films. Anna came in to see what all of the excitement was about. When she saw what we were doing, she suggested that the children could wear some of the Christmas costumes that were available in the nursery, which included elf costumes and Santa outfits. Anna then also found some Christmas songs on YouTube, using the interactive whiteboard. We soon had some lovely films of children singing ‘Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer’ and other Christmas songs in front of the twinkling forests, dressed in their festive outfits. We ran out of time to create all of the films the children wanted to make, so this may be something Anna and her staff can do themselves, as this was our last session with the children.

When we came again, it would be to view the exhibition for parents and governors of the model houses, lights, lampposts and Christmas trees, which was to take place on Christmas party day. It would be a lovely way to end what had been a highly successful project.