



Through Fresh Eyes: *A Visit from Kalei's Mother*



On Thursday, April 14th, Kalei's mother, Helen, paid us a visit. Helen is a professional photographer so her Nikon is almost always slung around her neck. The photographs she took as traces of her experience at The Nest allow us to witness the playfulness, ingenuity, & sweetness of the children with a new perspective.



The children greatly enjoyed sharing the details of their daily life with Helen, but the photos from our time on the playground are particularly enticing. She captures the wonderfully unique features of this dynamic group that we take for granted because we see them everyday: Lila's precious smile, Margaret "pregnant" with a ball-baby, the sweet Genovese sisterhood, Helena's silliness, the close knit friendships.



These images with the blue bucket hint to us that Helen became keenly sensitive to the kind of documentation we share throughout our school, like the series of photographs that consider children's processes & theories. She was intrigued by the sense of ownership the children have at The Nest & made many observations regarding educators' trust in the children. Taking our lead, she chose *not* to interrupt the children's play by asking them to use the bucket "properly." Instead she steps back to observe the many ways the children can explore & manipulate the versatile object. The children play with the bucket regularly, but Helen's images remind us of the richness of our everyday lives.