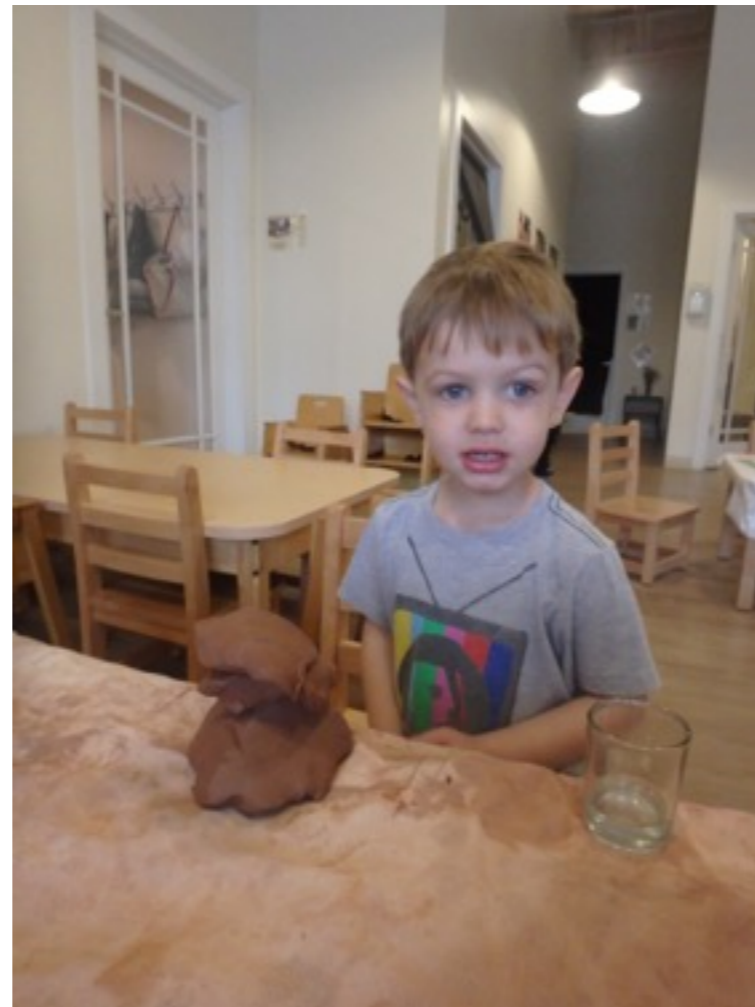


Intentionality with Clay Works - February 22nd, 2017



The Green Room children have had many, many experiences working with clay and various materials. So far, our works done in-class have been transient pieces that were put back in the clay bin after the experience. In the studio, however, many clay works have gone on to be fired, glazed, and made permanent. Today, I sat down with a group of four: Landyn, Aleita, Josie, and Huck. We started the experience with a conversation about clay. What can we do with clay? We can play with it, mold with it, transform its malleability with water, poke it with other materials, etc. I explained to the group that we could also MAKE things with clay and keep them forever! With this in mind, we started to work with the clay in the usual manner, with a little bit of water to soften it...



...After they worked with the clay for a while I asked the children what they were making...

Aleita: "A wild thing!"
Landyn: "A purple elephant."
Josie: "A pink monkey."
Huck: "A LION! Roar!"

I grabbed our computer and decided to print out photos of each of their ideas to use as reference. Landyn and Josie initially observed their reference photo, but eventually incorporated the photo into their sculpture, making quite a mess. Huck immediately began playing with the lion photo and decided he was no longer interested in the clay. Aleita, however, used her photo of a wild thing as a reference and began very meticulously working on a sculpture. The rest of the group was okay with incorporating their clay back into the clay bin, but Aleita wanted to save hers.

Thoughts...

How can I further the idea of permanence with clay works?

What other ways could we use references (such as the photos) that may be more successful?