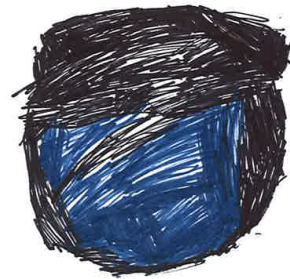


"I have an idea! I could like take pictures of nature all around us and then we look at it and draw it!" -Margaret

Drawing from Reference Photos, October 2017



Margaret's blue pot

Margaret: "Look at my pot!"

Josie: "I'm drawing this car. I put a jacket on it. Hehe."

Tashi: "I'm making a fish!"

Margaret: "Do you see a fish in your reference picture?"

Tashi: "Yeah! Haha"

Margaret: "Why are you making another jacket?"

Josie: "Because she (the car) needs a BIG one today."

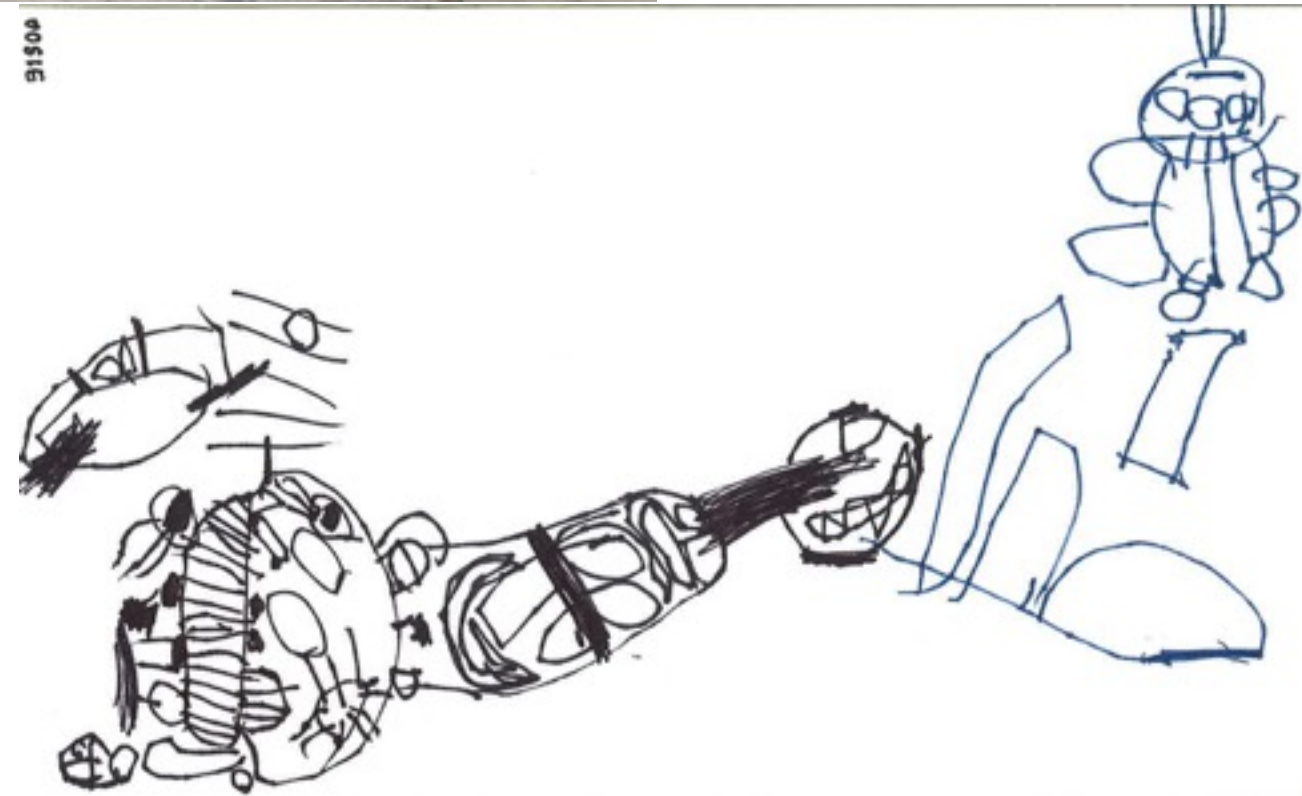
Margaret: "Tashi... there's no fishes in your picture! I did not take a picture of fishes."

Tashi: "Now I'm drawing the sun"

Rachel: "Where is the sun today?"

Noble: "I think the sun is in the earth because its not out in the sky."

Josie: "I put the sun in the car I drew! Haha!"



Josie's parking lot

a little backstory...

My initial thoughts with this drawing group was that we would reflect upon the rain out on the patio and draw whatever came to mind. I picked card stock paper and fine tip sharpies for this drawing session.

Rachel: "How do you feel on days when the weather is like this?"

Margaret: "Cold."

Noble: "Happy!"

Tashi: "Me too!"

Josie: "It makes me sad..."

Rachel: "What do you notice about the sky?"

Margaret: "it's grey!"

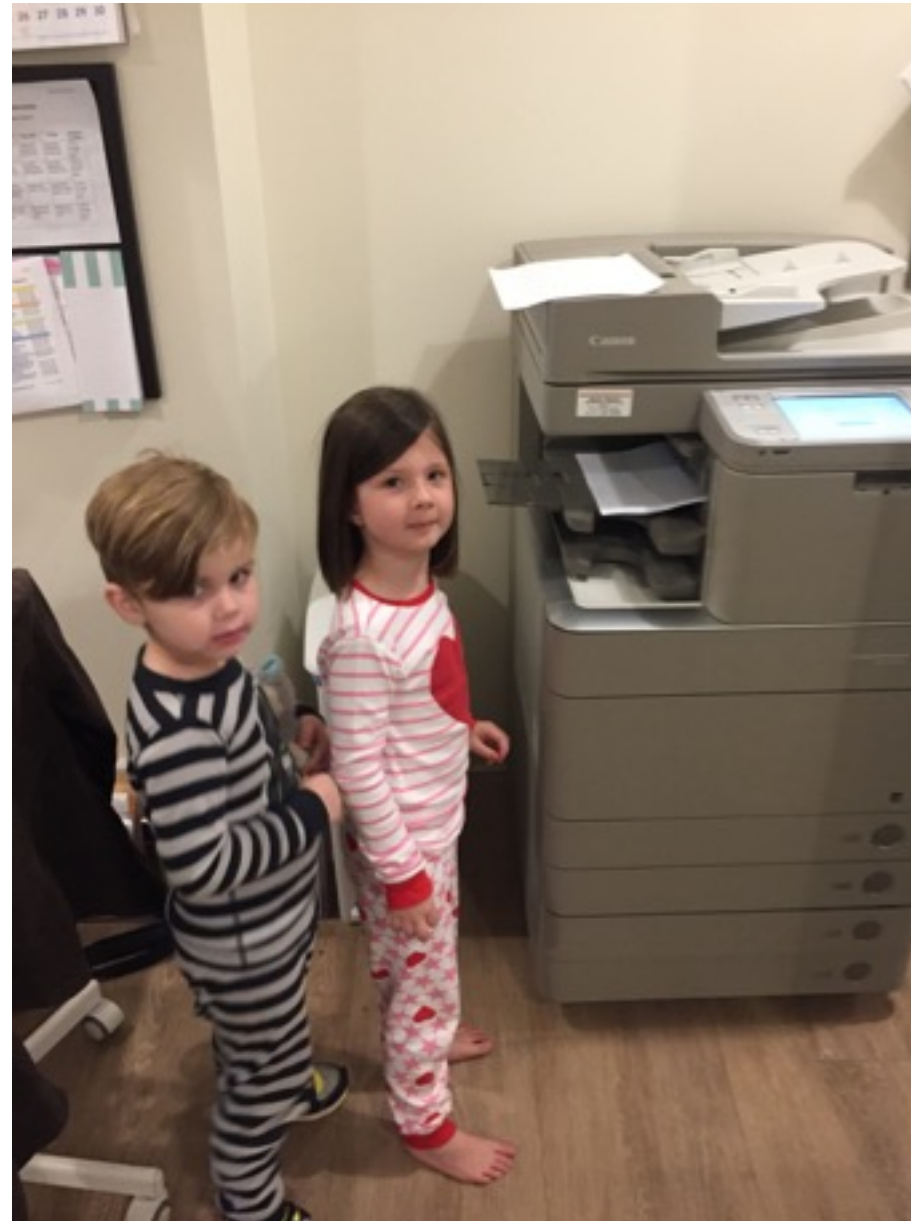
Josie: "It's also blue."



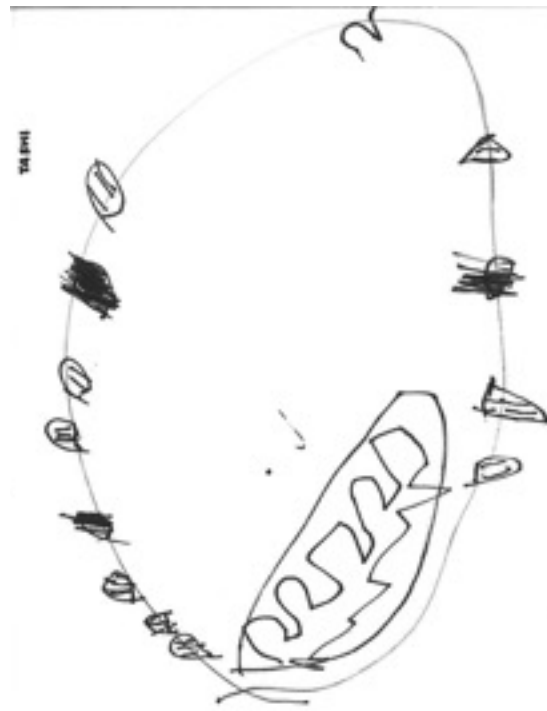
above, Josie and Margaret pick out the photos that they took to upload and print.

to the right, Noble and Margaret excitedly anticipate the printed reference photos.

below, Margaret explains how we will use these photos to create our drawings.

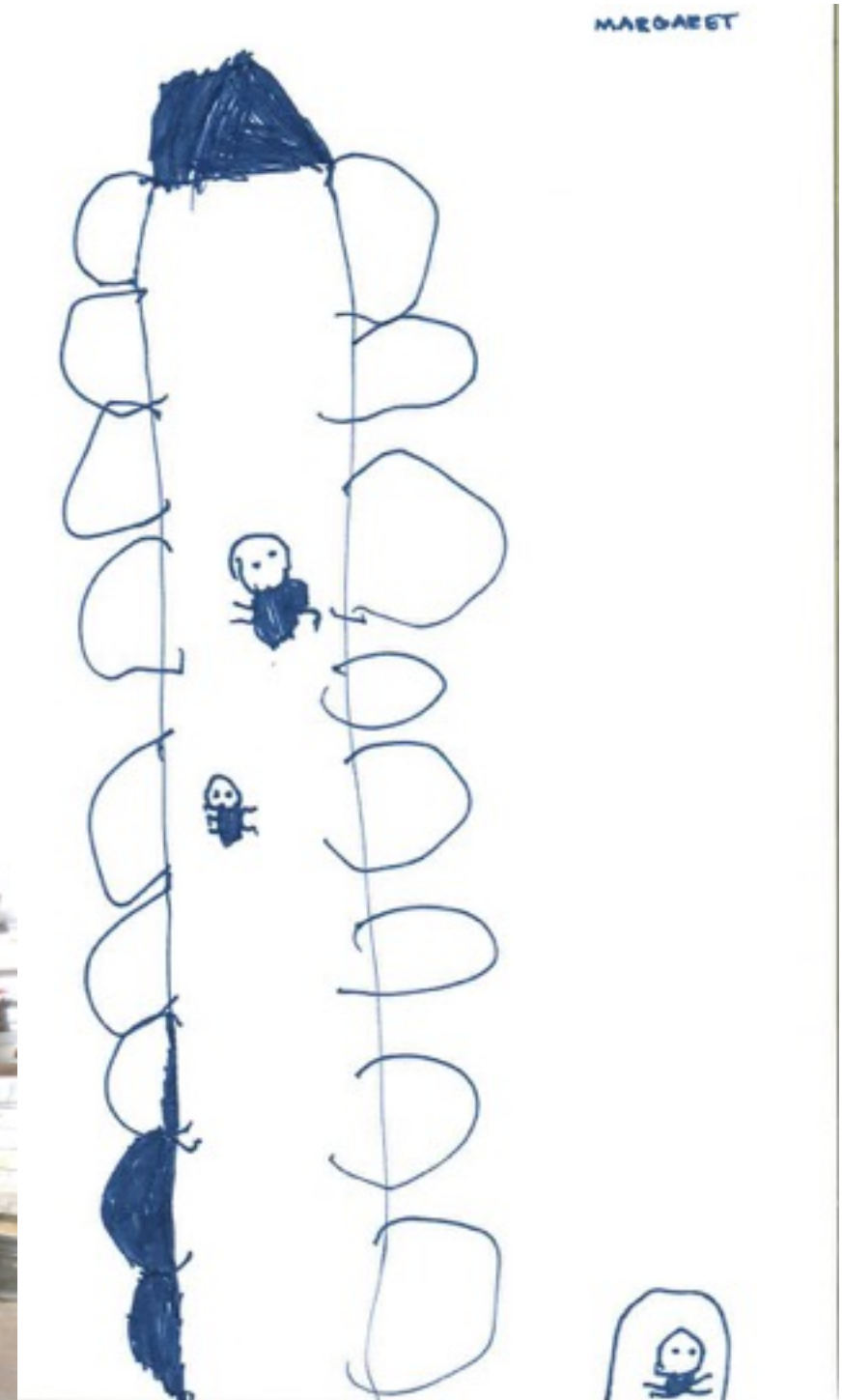


but then,
Margaret
proposes the
idea to take
photos of the
sky and trees to
use as
reference!



Tashi's fish surrounded by raindrops

"Sometimes on the playground I see ants on the tree. So that's why I decided to put ants on this tree."
-Margaret



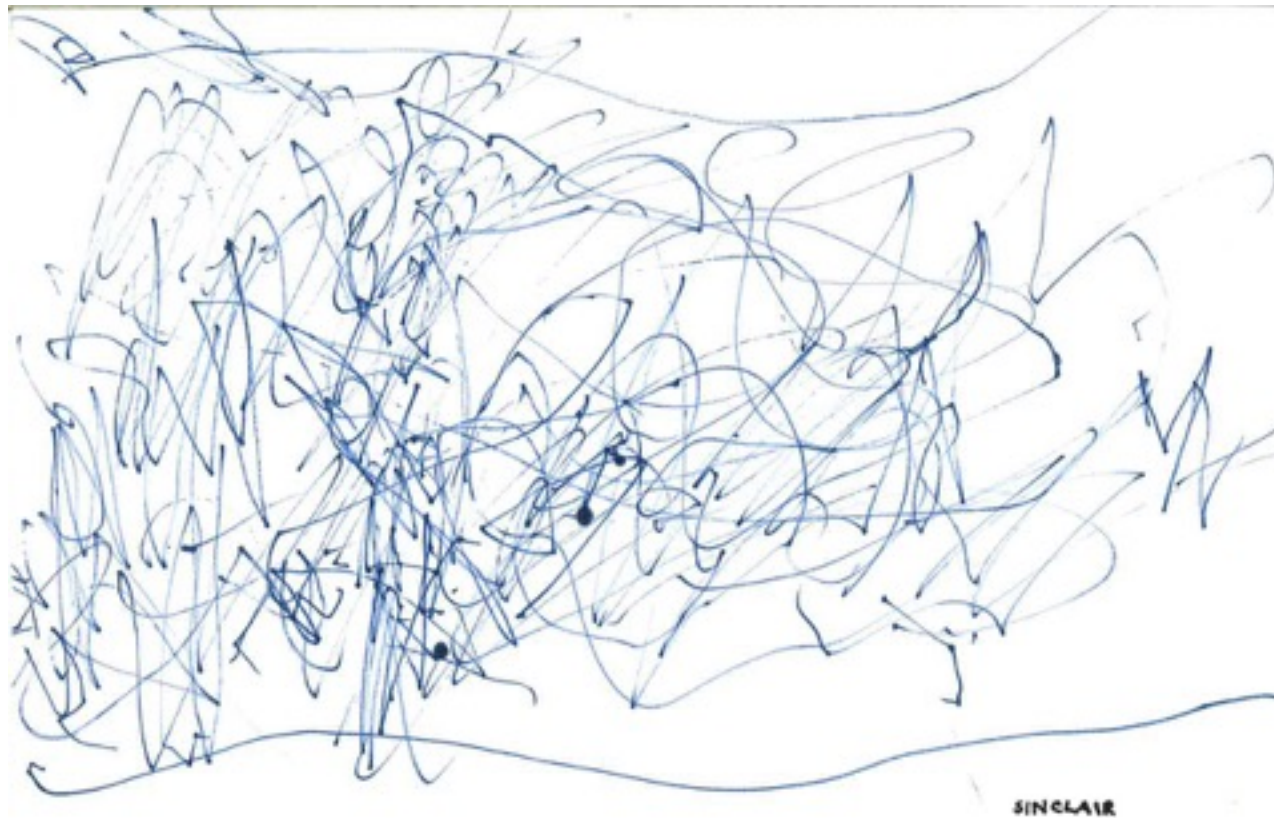
Margaret's tree



Sinclair: "I make a line at the bottom when I draw because sometimes I am drawing construction."

Rachel: "What is the line?"

Margaret: "Like those things people put up so they don't go in... I think that's what those are. Right Sinclair?"



Sinclair's portrayal of the back yard with a "construction line"



Each child's take on the experience of drawing by reference was different:

Josie began with a very literal drawing of a car in the parking lot, but as she continued to draw, her drawing contained more and more fantastical and abstract elements. She even personified the car with care to the cooler weather of the day by giving it a "sweater".

Tashi was uninterested in referencing the photo, but felt pressure from Margaret to try to tie in her drawing to the setting of the back yard. She often drew something from her imagination instead.

Noble did not use the reference photo at all, but instead drew an interpretation of his own home.

Margaret kept her drawings very literal. She was especially focused with her pot drawing. Even when she added an element into her drawing from memory (the ants on the tree), she verbally justified it by noting that she had seen ants on other trees in the past.

Sinclair was a late addition to our drawing group, but he did have interest in using the reference photo.



Noble's house