

Studio MCE Week 9 in Yellow Room



This week, the yellow room teaching team and I discussed building on introductory experiences with materials such as clay, paper, paint, and light + shadow.



Jude, Sam, and I sat out on the patio area outside of the yellow room with clay on high chair trays. Jude was especially interested in squishing the wet clay in his hands.



Sam pinched at the clay and slid it across his tray, eventually covering the tray with "slip" - a mixture of clay and water. He then pushed the clay to the edge of the tray and concentrated on spreading around and making marks in the slip.



This week was especially rainy. On Tuesday, Sam noticed the rain outside of the classroom window and sat for quite some time, making little noises as he observed.



One of our intentions for this week was to take advantage of the grey weather and create intentional dark spaces for the children to explore with light. Kennedy seemed fascinated by an LED rope light as she grasped it above her face.



We also projected some calming imagery of underwater scenes.



Arlo, Banks, Alexander, Sam, and Jude enjoyed working with paint on a large canvas in the studio. We plan for this piece to be a long-term, collaborative work. As the Yellow Room children's competencies with different mark-making materials grow, we will add more and more layers to this work.









Later in the week, we rolled out two very big rolls of paper in the studio with an intention to see how the yellow room children would interact with them. Alexander was eager to interact with the rolls of paper, but quickly became distracted by the drying rack in the studio. Jess thought to pull one of the metal drawers off of the rack to see if this added element would encourage Alexander to interact with the paper as well as satisfy his curiosity of the drying rack.



We immediately observed Alexander noticing the sound the drying rack shelf made against the paper.



Soon after, Alexander also noticed, and tried desperately to grasp, the shadows cast by the grid. Fascinating!



Ravi observed the grid shadows while enjoying tummy time. He cooed and tried to grasp at the shadows made against the white paper and his pillow.



I invited Arlo and Banks into the studio to interact with the same provocation. Banks walked over to the big green shelf and grabbed stabilo woody pencils, so I set them down on the paper. The two made some marks on the paper with the pencils. Although I would think this group is too young for me to have any expectations about mark-making in this way, Banks' interest in the pencils seemed like an authentic context to try them out.

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