



Birds, Nests, & Hatchings - April 20th, 2016

For the past few years, a pair of birds have chosen to create a nest somewhere at our little school. This year, a family of robins have made the bend in the deck gutter their nursery. Because the bend is at a downward slope, Rob Downs (Helena & Preston's father) offered to zip-tie a nest-sized basket to the gutter so the birds could nest more successfully. This helped the robins lay four tiny blue eggs (at least two of the eggs had hatched the last time we were able to check)! The children have since been very attentive to the birds who frequent the playground trees & ask regularly about the robins' progress. To support this interest, Kalei projected videos of birds, nests, & hatchings onto our white curtains. Kalei anticipated children might "free play" while watching the projections at leisure, but the children proved her otherwise with intense observation!

While watching an eagle warm her nest...

"He can catch fish...animals [with his talons]." -Landon

"Where's the robin?" - Adele

"I guess the eagle ATE the robin!" - Landon

"The baby must be underneath her belly..." -Helena

"No, they're in the eggs." -Violet

While watching a series of videos of hatching robins...

"A baby's coming out!" -Emerson

"I can see its beak!" -Helena

"...his feathers!" - Landon

"If I was in the egg I would just crack it with my arms or my foot." -Adele

"If I was in the egg I would push it." -Hank

"How did the nest fall?" -Adele

"It didn't fall! That's the one at school TODAY!" -Helena

"You can do it, I just KNOW you can...go, birdie, go!" -Violet



The children applied their observations outside on the playground, too. Violet, Emerson, & Helena played a game on a tarp in which Violet was a baby robin in a nest (the blue bucket), Helena was another baby, & Emerson was the mother robin.

