

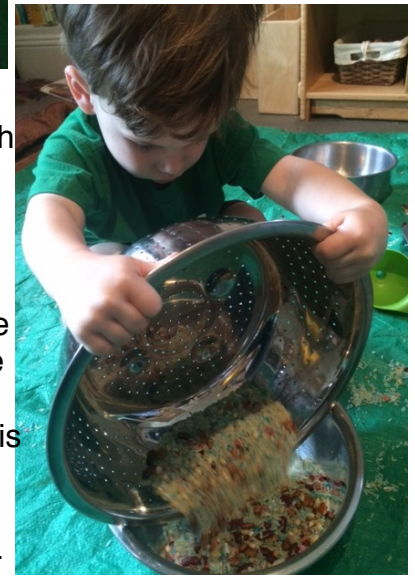
# A Request for Sensory Play

*Revisiting the Joy of Rice*

July 6th, 2015



At the conclusion of our Morning Meeting, Kalei asked the children what they would like to play today. Violet was quick to shout "I want to play rice!" & since many of her peers seemed enthusiastic about her request, Kalei set up a large tarp in the playroom. Atop the tarp was an assortment of metal cook-ware filled with a mix of dry rice & beans accompanied by funnels, scoopers, & glass bottles. Each child enjoyed interacting with the provocation in their own meaningful way.



Although Colin is always a major protagonist in rice play, he seemed to approach the provocation with a new framework today. After a period of reacquaintance with the materials, including a lengthy exercise in pouring, his play became more focused. He proceeded to collect objects intentionally, lay them out as desired, & transfer rice from one tray to the bowls down the line with a funnel. The funnel is an interesting tool to offer with the rice bean mix because children find numerous surprising & unconventional ways to use it. In this instance, Colin began using the funnel as if it were a scoop. Before he could even dump its contents, however, he realized his scoop had a hole in it! He moved it over the bowl & watched with wonder as the rice fell through without further manipulation. This clearly altered his perception of the tool as a "scoop;" when the beans clogged the funnel, he didn't try to dump it as he would have with a real scoop. Instead, he shook the funnel until its contents either flew over the top or were shuffled down though the tunnel.

