



Elmhurst Academy
~ NIDO CLASSROOM ~
"Riflessione"

September 23-October 4, 2019

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Rodgers, Ms. Nolan and Ms. Doyle

*A private, independent Reggio Emilia inspired
early childhood school.*

Fall Equinox: The Nido celebrated the first day of

autumn with an exploration of leaves. A combination of silk and real leaves were placed inside of a clear plastic bag along with baby oil, colored water, glitter and shiny leaf shaped sequins. The autumn themed sensory bag was then taped onto a light panel and the younger Nido students were invited over to explore.

The older Nido students participated in a similar exploration, but their leaves were added to an open clear tray and a thin layer of water was poured over the top. The students sat up at the table and splashed while grasping onto the leaves. The various colors, shapes and sizes of the leaves added a math component to this nature activity.



Author Study: We concluded our study of Fiona Watt by creating an activity to further

enhance the student's interactions with textures. Large pieces of various textures were taped on the classroom floor. Shoes and socks were removed for the children to feel the different textures with the bottoms of their feet. The younger children were placed on their stomachs to explore the various textures. The contrast of plush velvety fabrics, course sandpaper and bumpy bubble wrap intrigued many little fingers as they rubbed their hands across them. The blue cellophane and silver tin foil caught the attention of all the children. They noticed the sound

the cellophane and tin foil made as they crinkled it with their fingers.





Contact paper with the sticky side up brought some curious looks from several children. Several children were heard making loud sounds as they rubbed their hands or feet quickly across the bubble wrap. The texture walk was a huge interest as many children kept returning to it throughout the day.

During the month of October, the Nido students will be looking at books by Karen Katz. The main characters in Karen Katz's books are infants, just like the Nido students! Many of her books also include interactive flaps which our students seem to enjoy. The first

book we focused on was "Where is Baby's Beach Ball?" This book depicts a beach scene and the students lift flaps to try and find the beach ball. To bring this story to life, the teachers created a beach scene with fine sand, seashells and small balls on a shallow tray. The students used their fingers to explore the various textures and make lines in the sand.





Art Class with Ms. James: To conclude peace month, we promoted the idea that understanding our differences and other people's differences is exciting! We have all heard the concept "walking a mile in someone else's shoes." or "walk to the beat of your own drum". This week the Nido class collaborated using one shoe as their canvas and covered it in art materials. Ms. James prepared trays with colored sand mixed in glue, tissue paper, and a spatula to spread the materials on the shoe. Most of the students were interested in feeling the sand and glue on the tray and on their hands. Some were very surprised when the tissue paper would stick to their hands. ~Ms. James



The month of October is themed after the artist, Sean Kenney and his works, Nature Connects! We are starting the month off interacting with an assortment of different sized and color, building blocks, then using the blocks to stamp on paper. The Nido students were given a pan with dollops of tempera paint of the primary colors, to use to stamp. In addition, the Nido class collaborated together to stamp on one large sheet of paper while on the floor. ~Ms. James



Project Approach/Fostering Curiosity through Textures: After much time of observing the Nido students we discovered that they were interested in exploring the many textures of our world. Our infants have been seen using their fingers and hands to explore items with various textures. We have noticed many of the students spending an extended period of time engaged in this exploration. From fabric to nature materials, the students appear fascinated by the way things feel. Taking this interest into account, the Nido teachers will facilitate many different activities involving a variety of textures for the students to discover. The first activity of our project was a variety of textures glued onto a poster board. Bubble wrap, fabric and cardboard were just a few. The students gathered together and took some time to touch everything. Then, the teachers added yellow and blue paint for another dimension. The students used their hands to spread the paint over the different materials. Throughout the project, we will touch upon each area

of development, facilitating learning in all areas with hands on sensorial activities.



Reminders:

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- Please bring in a family picture if you have not done so already.

- The Art Department is looking for donations of old shoes, any size or type that can be recycled into an art installation. Please let Ms. Flynn or Ms. James know if you have any questions. Thank you!

- Global Citizenship Committee would like to introduce the Family Connection Form. If you would like to share an important event or cultural experience you and your child participated in over the weekend, please fill out a Family Connection Form and bring to your child's classroom teacher, for the opportunity to share our experiences with each other and bridge home and school.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17feohQKsTjpAGPcjpWCazKoUy5IdgoQ8SRqcHdEBobU/edit?ts=5d83ea8a>