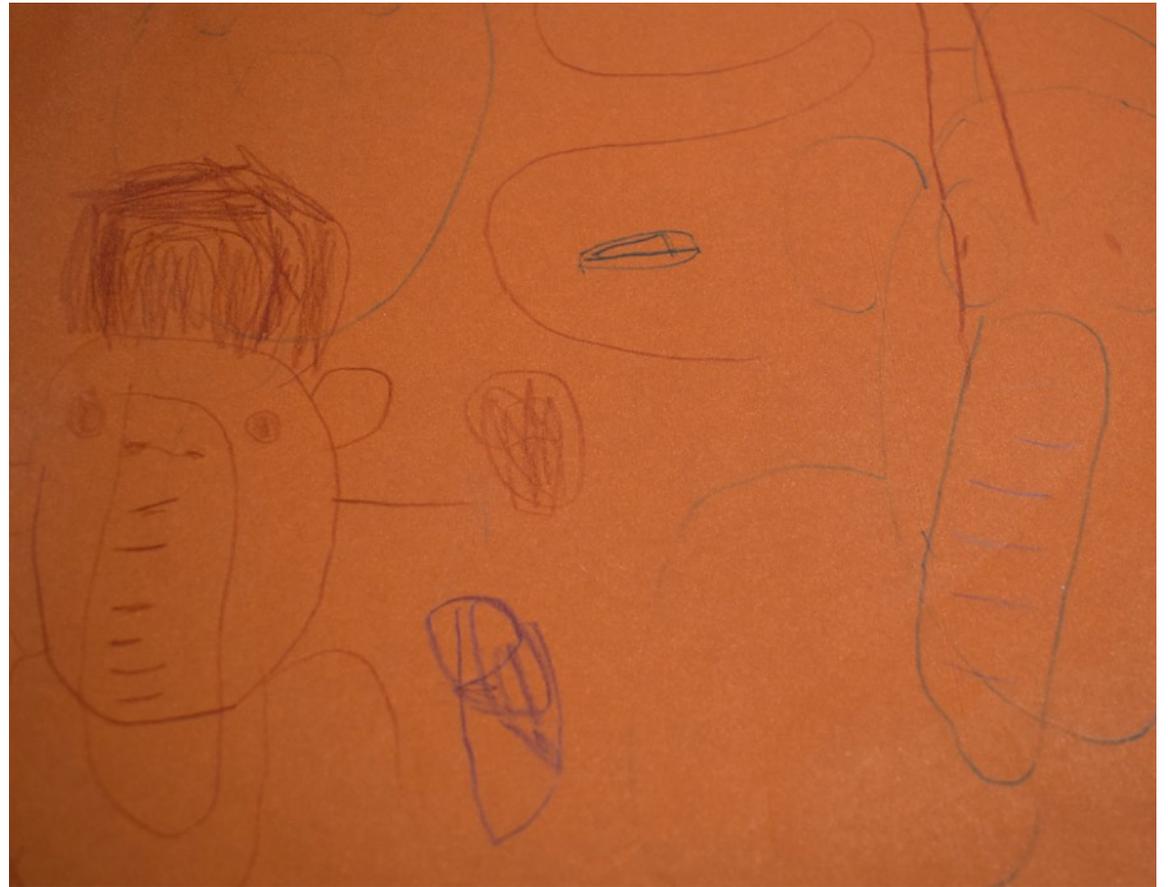
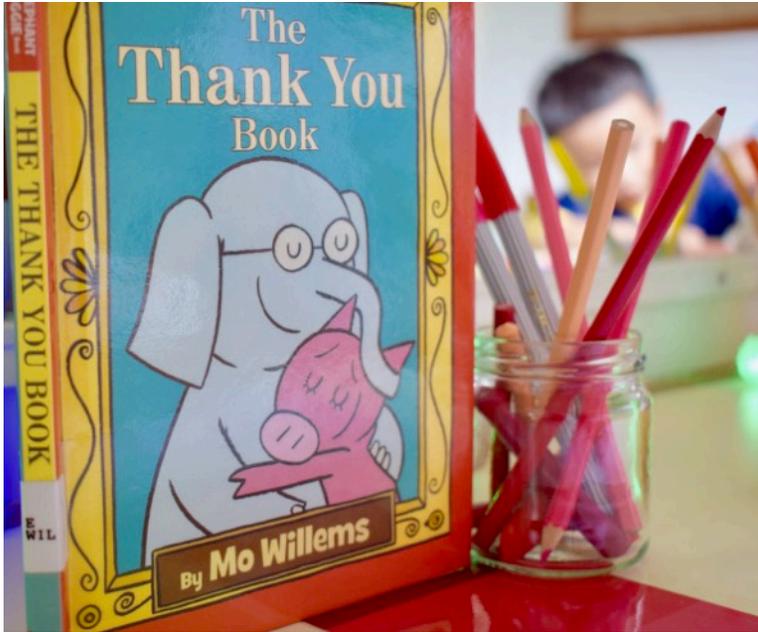


# Early Literacy & Character Connection

August 20-23, 2018



For the past 2 days, Mee-Tang (3.9) has been drawing elephants in our drawing table. He has chosen brown paper. He has not shared much explanation of his drawings as he has limited English proficiency, nor has he wanted us to publish his work on our bulletins. He wants to take it home and show it to his father and grandmother. The one above is a photo I captured before he put the paper in his bag.

The next day, he went to the drawing table again and started drawing the elephant, this time with more colors, on blank paper, and in a bigger size.

From his illustration I recognized the features of his character. I thought it could perhaps be the elephant from the series of books by author Mo Willems. Back on the third day of school we had read *“The Thank you Book”*. So I grabbed the book and took it to Mee-Tang and I asked him if this was the elephant he was drawing. As soon as he saw the book his face lit up and he replied, *“yes! Elephant!!”*



After this *“A-ha”* moment, he took the book and meticulously inspected it. He looked at some of the pages as he smiled at me. He carefully continued to color his elephant as well as the other character he had drawn next to it. I asked Mee-Tang if this was Piggie from the book. He looked at me. I commented that Piggie was missing his nose as I pointed to the book cover. I thought it would be Piggie because it was next to Elephant and had pink filling. Mee-Tang confidently said, *“Not Piggie, ME!”* I replied, *“Oh, I see. So this is you and Elephant!”* He smiled and made a hug gesture.



I asked Mee-Tang, “*Is Elephant hugging you?*” and he replies with a big smile, “*Yes!*”  
Mee-Tang is usually very shy. It was a great achievement to see him interacting with us and feeling proud of his work.

In the days following he kept communicating more about his drawings and showing empowerment in how he handled different media as well as his interactions in the classroom. During sensory play, I observed him making Elephant again with playdough moving into a 3-dimensional representation with sensory media. I was able to observe how his style transcended successfully into a new language. Through out the year, he continued to explore other languages to represent his admiration for elephants.



