

The Environment as a Third Teacher

“There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment.”

Loris Malaguzzi



Exploring Leaves

Children explore textures and colors of fall through books, different organic items, and by observing the leaves that had fallen from the trees. This was another way to bring the Atelier out into the playground. Children used leaves from our outdoor space to explore closely the components of nature and try to represent them matching the colors and the textures they saw.





Making Brown

Children are invited to mix red and green colors to discover secondary color, brown. We looked at Autumn books and videos to see how and why leaves change color during this season. The children collaborated to mix the colors and paint the canvas that had *undercover* triangles, which later were discovered by the whole class. The 4 year old children took turns to discover the triangles under the multiple shades of brown that the 3 year olds created.



Creating an Environment

After the 3 year old children mixed colors to make brown over a canvas with triangles, the 4 year old peers picked and chose different objects they found in the Atelier with similar colors and characteristics as those we were studying for the Autumn season. The children created a rich and cozy fall environment.





Ahan asks with concern, *“we need people, where are the people?”*
Teacher- *“what can you find to represent the people in this place?”*. He quickly looks around the Atelier and finds empty black spools. *“Here!!... this is the people!”* [as he shows me one spool]. He carefully places them around the canvas claiming, *“this is a police station”* and that finalized their fall environment.