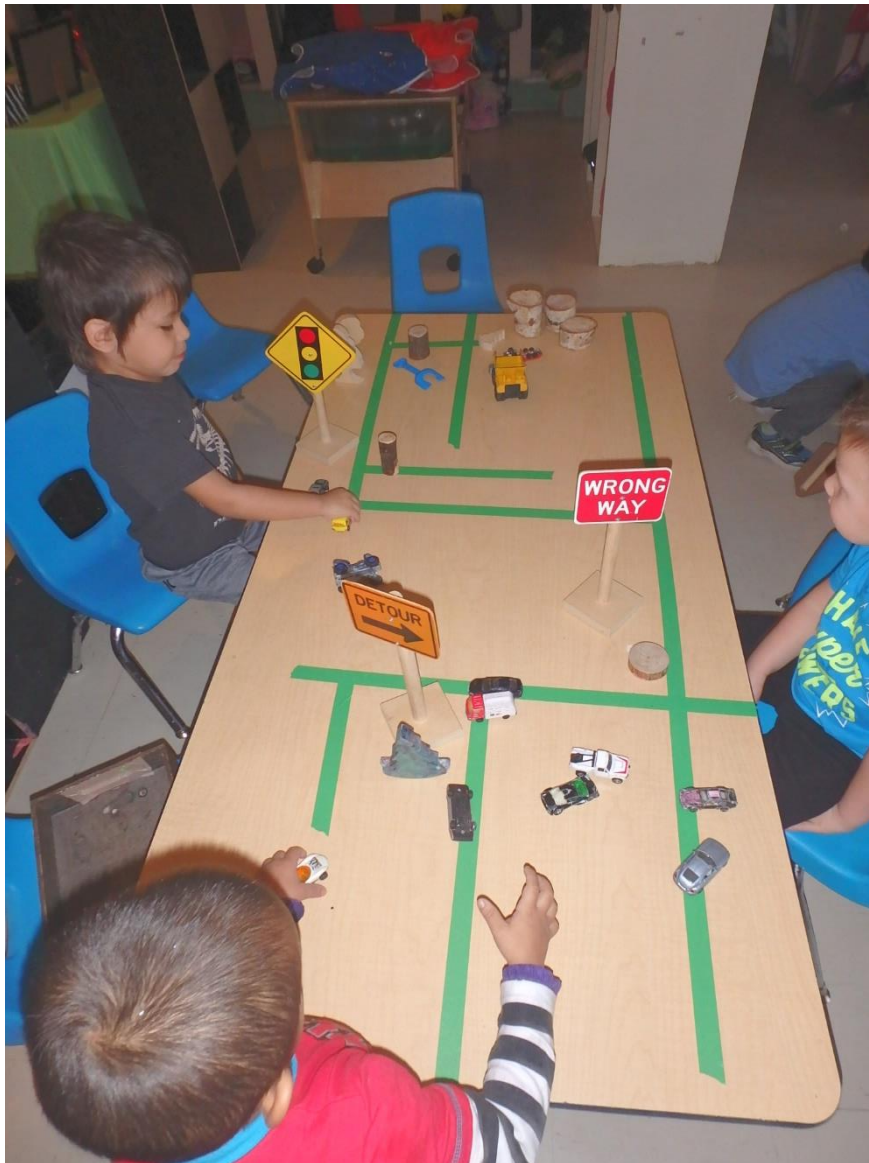


Exploration of Transportation!



Exploration of Transportation.

This project took place at the;

Royal West Early Learning Centre, Saskatoon SK

The age levels of the children that participated in the project were multi-age levels ranging from 2 ½ - 5 ½ years of age.

The number of children involved in the project of Exploration of Transportation was 17.

The setting in or facility is a half day setting and full day setting for our children.

We have community spots which are full time spots and we have other spots reserved for parents who take classes at Royal West, which can be full time or part time, depending on their parent's schedules.

The length of time to complete the project of Exploration of Transportation was 5 weeks.

There were three teachers involved in this project. They were;

Keari Doyle – Pre school ECE

Rachelle Hawkeswood – Pre school ECE

AJ Timms – EA

Phase 1: Beginning the Project

Christians Red Car

Rachelle and Christian were playing cars “Teacher can you paint me a car?”

Christian ran over to the table, pulled out all the paints, grabbed the water cup, filled it up with water and placed it on the table beside Rachelle.

Rachelle asked “What would you like me to paint?”

“A car with wheels.”

Rachelle painted a big red car on paper What else could we add in the picture?”

“trees! Green trees!” replies Christian

“What should the car be driving on?” asked Rachelle

“A road, cars roll on the road.” Said Christian

“Anything else to add to the picture?” Rachelle asked

“a Plane, a plane!” responded Christian

When rachelle finished the painting she handed it to Christian, and Christians eyes became very big

“wow, this is so perfect, It’s so fast!!”

Christian took the painting, ran upstairs and showed his friends. Christian continued to play with his red car, because red is his favourite color.

The topic was chosen because a specific child was interested in a red car and then became interested in more topics related to transportation. As the interest grew, more children became involved.

The children represented their knowledge in the beginning of the project by representing their experiences by expressing knowledge of what was in the room of transportation vehicles we had in our room.

“What kind of vehicle do you have?”

“Do dozer” said Dominic

“What does a do dozer do?”

“Goes on it’s own and scoops dirt only diggers allowed.” Replied Dominic.



Dominic and his Do Dozer

“What kind of vehicle do you have?”

“Monkey Car” answered Memphis

“What does you monkey car do?”

“It monkeys. Says Vroom. Rolls hill.” Explained Memphis



Memphis and his Monkey Car

“What kind of vehicle do you have?”

“Fire truck” replied Christian

“What does a fire truck do?”

“Fire truck to the rescue, put out fire. It’s called, it is, it is fire truck!”
exclaimed Christian



Christian and his Fire Truck



“What kind of vehicle do you have?”

“Car” replied Cody

“what does your car do?”

“Fire car. Vroom fast. Fire car.” Explained Cody



Cody and his Fire Car

“What kind of vehicle do you have?”

“It’s a dump truck!” Exclaimed Christian

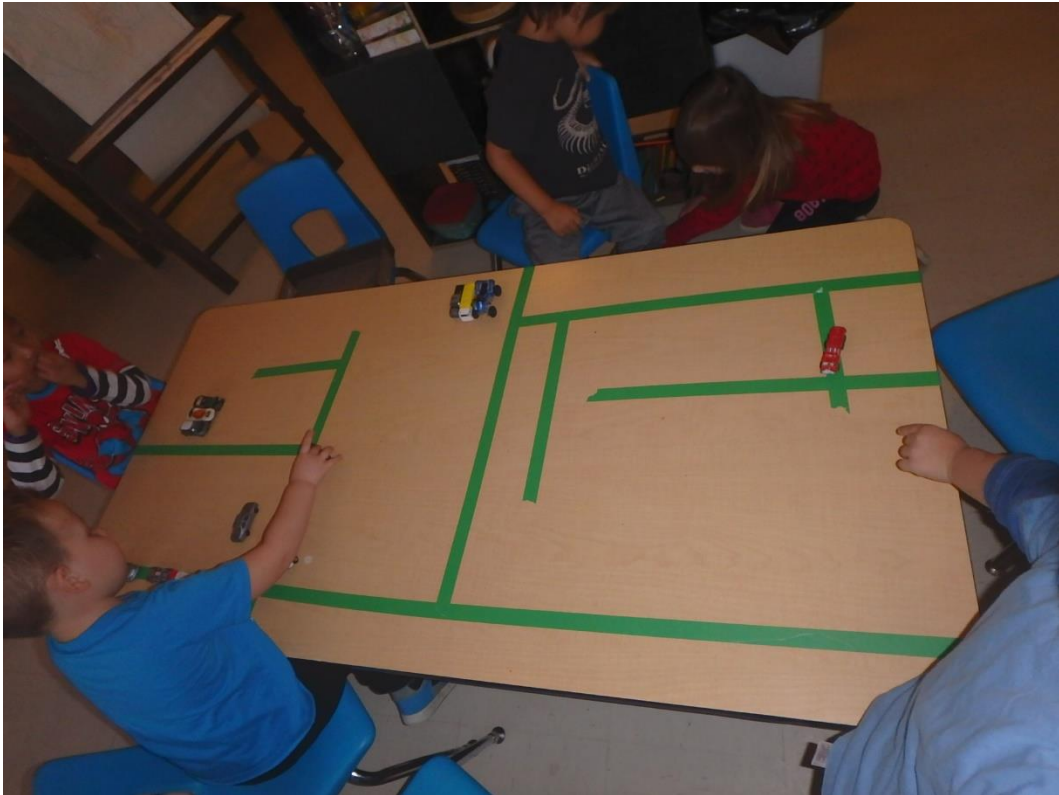
“What does the dump truck do?”

“Dump truck dumps rocks!” Said Christian as he happily showed how his dump truck dumps the rocks

The class decided to investigate their topic of transportation by asking the teachers to bring some books and would be able to answer them by looking at the books and help navigate through the books pages.

If they had questions, the teachers would help answer them through reading the book to the children as they were prompted by the children intrigue.

The



questions were recorded by writing and through picture taking, through transcribing and asking open ended questions to the children that they can answer as stated in the pictures above.

Making Tracks....

Sharan, Cody, Memphis Christian, and Kendrick wanted to make roads for their cars one afternoon.

So a teacher asked what we could make roads out of.

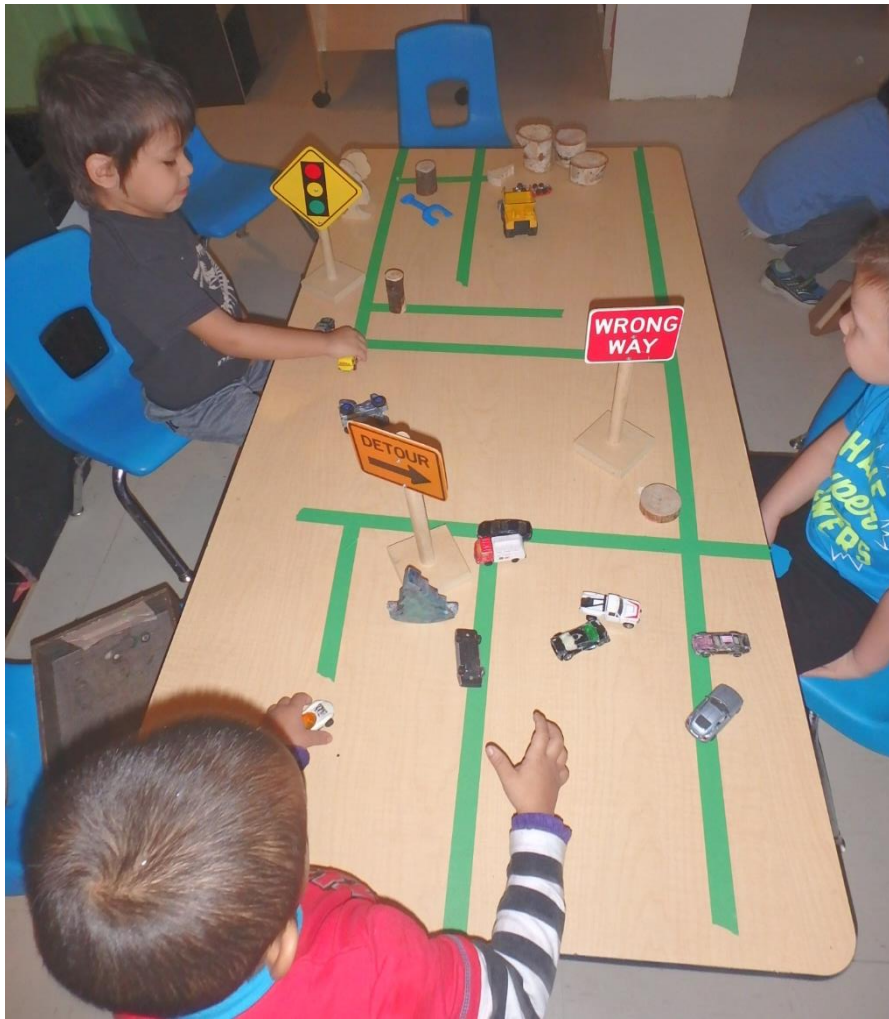
We had some different options and the teacher suggested tape, this way everyone could help make the roads.

So all of the children helped tell the children where they wanted each of a piece of tape to lay down on the table, making the roads each lay a different way.

The teacher told them, it made a grid pattern, just like we have here in Saskatchewan.

After we were done laying the tape down, the children added signs we had in the room to help with direction.

“Stop! Your turn!”



“Watch out!” Shouts Christian



All of the friends have been maneuvering their signs and cars on the roads they made together.

Christian then told Keri,

“I need water, my car is on fire, AHHHHH!”

Keari retrieved a small water bottle and filled it for Christian.



Christian putting out the fire

“Keari it is so slippery” Said Christian



“Yes, Christian the table is now slippery with water”

Christian putting out the truck fire

Our expectations for this project was that the children would learn to ask different question and learn to ask something new and would learn something new about themselves.

Whether about themselves or a new passion about transportation was color of vehicles or a new sound of vehicle that they like or a new vehicle of transportation that they like.

Phase 2:

As the project of Exploration of Transportation continued, the children became more intrigued into different types of vehicles; we set different types of invitations to help the children explore their interests.









One in particular caught their attention. Fire trucks!

Jacob and the Fire Truck

“I’m going to build to this teacher” said Jacob

“That’s a big puzzle Jacob, would you like help?” asked Keri

“No, I okay.” Replied Jacob

“Okay, I’ll come back and see how your doing.” Stated Keri

10 mins later Keri came back to where Jacob was putting together his large fire truck puzzle

“Jacob, your almost done!”

“One piece left, teacher. Teacher look, I finished the big firetruck!”

“Awesome job Jacob!” exclaimed



Keri

The Fire Station Comes for a Visit !!!!













Adelina representing the women of the fire department of Royal West.







The children became more and more interested in Fire trucks so we invited the local Fire department to come in and talk to our children about their equipment and how they do their jobs including how they drive their big trucks!!

The local department read a story, let us try on their equipment and some that fit us just perfectly and let us help name a dragon that is their pet!

They couldn't bring their big fire truck to our centre because it was busy that day, but that was okay.

The questions started to become about firetrucks.

-How could we build one?

-In the yard, they started listening for emergency vehicles, particularly fire trucks.

-If they saw a fire truck they shared that experience with friends when they came to the centre that day.

-How the fire truck sounded

-What the fire trucks purpose was. Ladder truck/ hose truck

Beginnings of the Fire Truck

One morning Cody and Christian were in early and talking about a fire truck one of them had seen on the way to the centre.

We had a spare box sitting on the counter and Christian asked if he could make a fire truck.

We said sure we could and asked what we would need to make a fire truck?

Christian said “red paint”

What else could we use to help make a fire truck.

“wheels” the boys said, and “paper”

We had found some round cylinders from tape cartons to use for wheels and asked the boys if this would work for their wheels and they said yes,

We gave them some paper and some paint brushes and let them begin to make their fire truck.



When they were finished painting their fire truck the boys decided to put their wheels as headlights and let it dry.



It's dry and done!!

Cody and Christian drove the fire truck to rescues all over the center making rescues all day!

Through the documentation project we went to the library and garnered a lot of different books on transportation, which shortly after the fire trucks led us into another transportation topic.....

In the midst of our transportation excitement the children were also very excited about all the noise and construction going on across the hall from our pre-school room!

We are adding to our centre and having a lot of work done. We have men working with tools and they watch their big work trucks from our play yards.

One morning the workers let us come in and take a look!!

We were soooo excited to be in a “Under Construction Zone”



As the project expanded in a new direction as the transportation books were set out around our room, we put out invitations to help engage their interactions with their new interest.



Black bean and Marble Space Invitation Centre





“It’s a Hubble telescope!” said Christian

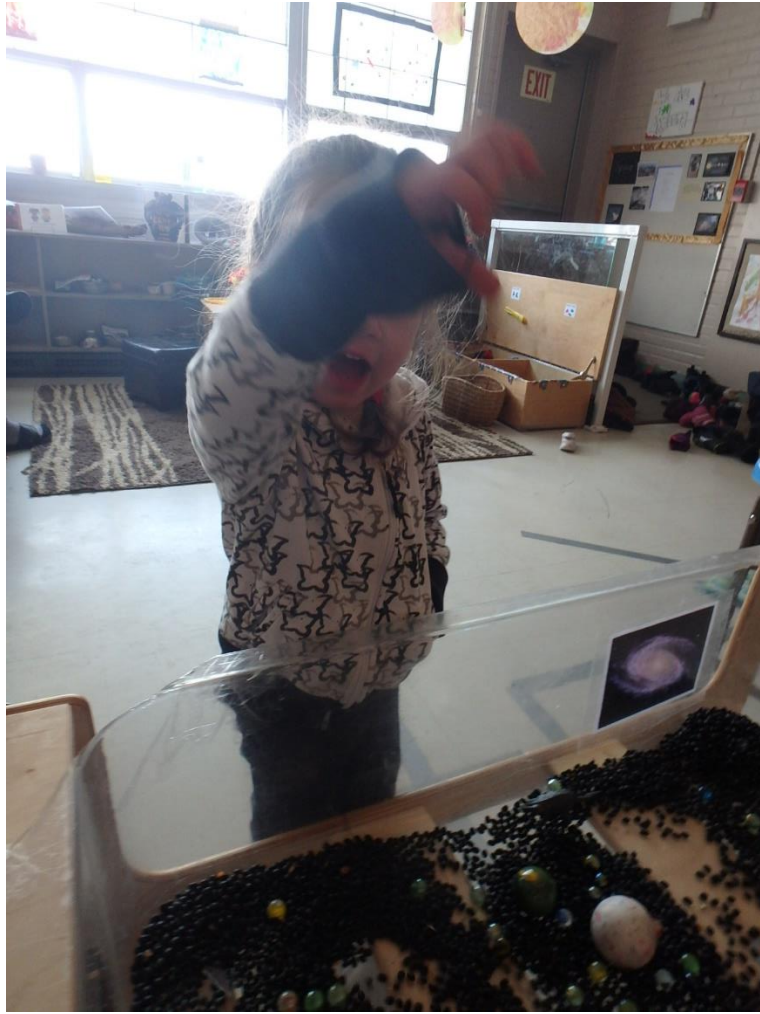
As the children in the room became more and more interested in the exploration of transportation in space our theme shifted into space transportation.

How do we travel into space?

What is in space?

Can we build a rocket?

A lot of this was answered in our sensory bins, crafts and exploration projects that we created with our children, for unfortunately travel into space with our children is a little out of reach at this time.....











Adelina had come to the “Space” sensory bin and started playing with the marbles and beans and loved the way that they sounded when she ran her fingers through them and let them fall.

Adelina started to sing as she scooped some beans up and let them slowly fall through her fingers

“It’s raining, it’s pouring, the old man is snoring”

“It sounds like rain, Yah!” Adelina said

“Yes” The teacher said

Adelina sang her song over and over again getting louder and louder as she sang making it rain with the beans.

As the transportation project turned transportation of flight into space we helped the children by bringing more books from our local library into our space so the children could expand their play.

We had noticed with their Lego and block play how the children were building rocket and space ships so we set up a centre where they could further expand on that play on their own.





The children became more and more excited in the space topic and how do we get to “Space” and “blasting off and we started to explore these topics throughout the room at all times during the day!

Even meal time was Space time!

We chew the space food with our big astronaut teeth!

Our children wanted to blast off.

So they started building space ships out of everything and started pulling stools from every room, and chairs to make mission control.

Even the bathroom that our toddlers use to wash our hands with, to blast off from!!!



Christian after blast off!

Missions control launch, in the background with Astronaut Reid waiting for his turn to launch.

We had many launches in the coming days and week, and then the children had an amazing question!

Can we fly to space?

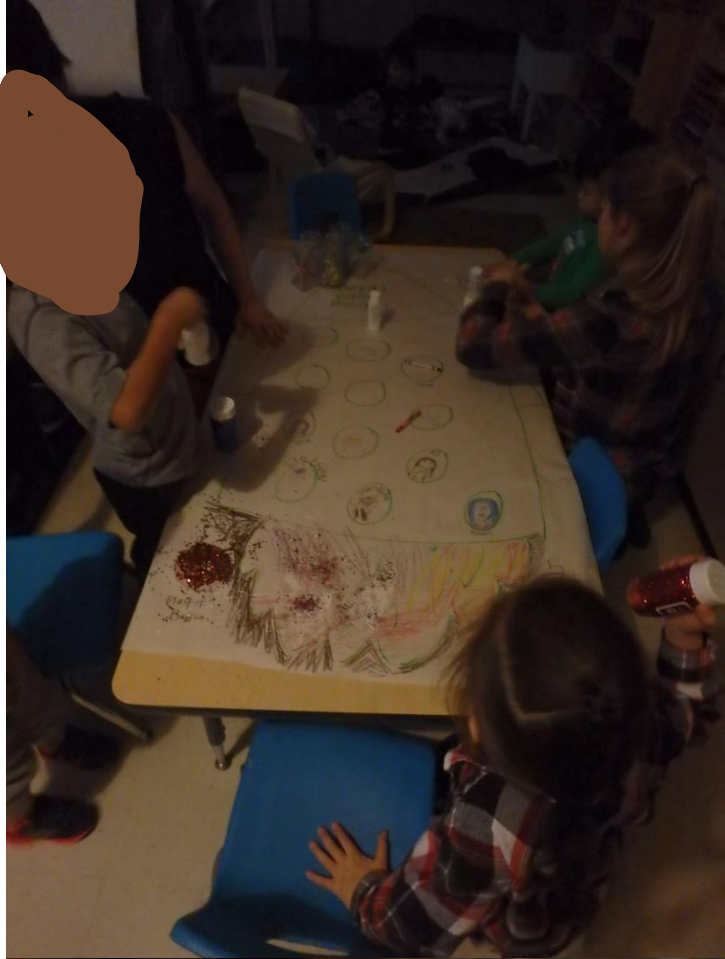
The teachers thought long and hard how the children could fly to space.....

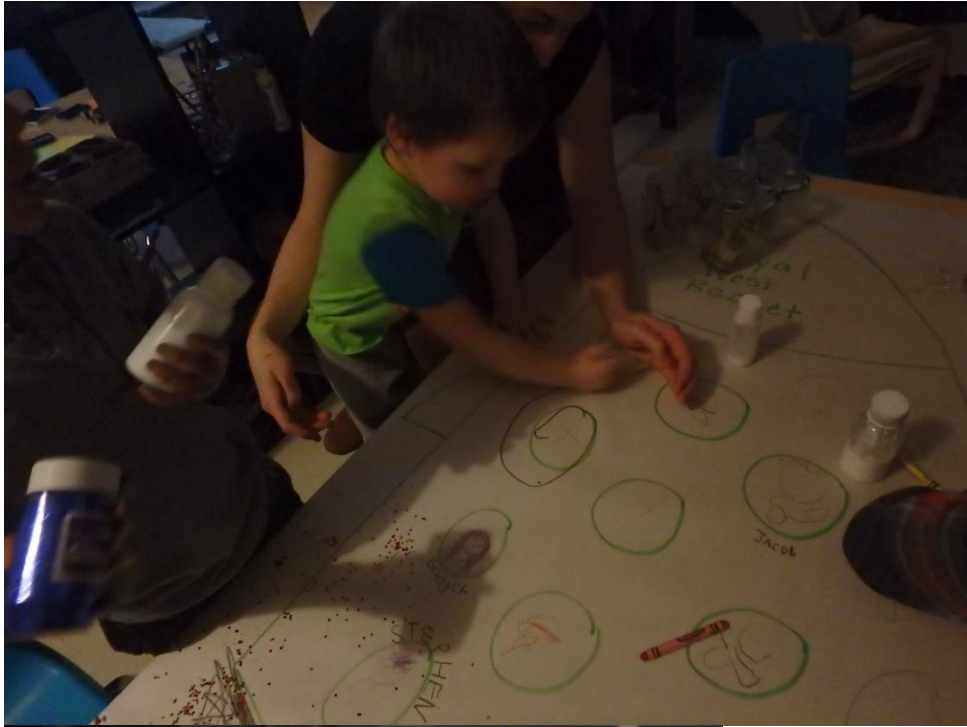
Then one quiet time when the children were waking up they woke to find that a rocket ship had landed.













All of our children were able to draw their own face and or bodies in the rocket ship windows and help design and color the Royal West Rocket ship that would take all of us on rocket ship adventure.

All of the children decided together that there had to have sparkled. Lots and lots of sparkles!!!

Which there was!

The children all glued and colored together and even decided that there needed to be a blast off button!

As the children were admiring their rocket ship hanging in the hallway the children saw a box in the hall way so the teachers decided to bring it into the room to see how the children would use their imaginations.....

Rocket Ship

I introduced a box in the class room one day. Memphis, Christian and Jaslyne were standing there, "Teacher what can we do with this box?" I put it down on the carpet "we can do what ever you would like." Christian walked around the box he suddenly looked surprised "I know rocket ship." Jaslyne, Memphis and Christian got to work making their rocket ship. I asked if they needed anything else for their rocket ship Memphis started to smile. "I need to stand on something." We all went for a walk in the hall way "Do you see anything we can use to stand on?" Memphis ran up to milk cartons. We collected three of them and went back in to the room. Memphis placed his milk cartoon beside the rocket ship and climbed up

onto it. “Ready for blast off.” Christian and Jaslyne climbed on to their milk cartons. Jaslyne and all her friends jumped off.

They had so much fun together playing with their rocket ships.

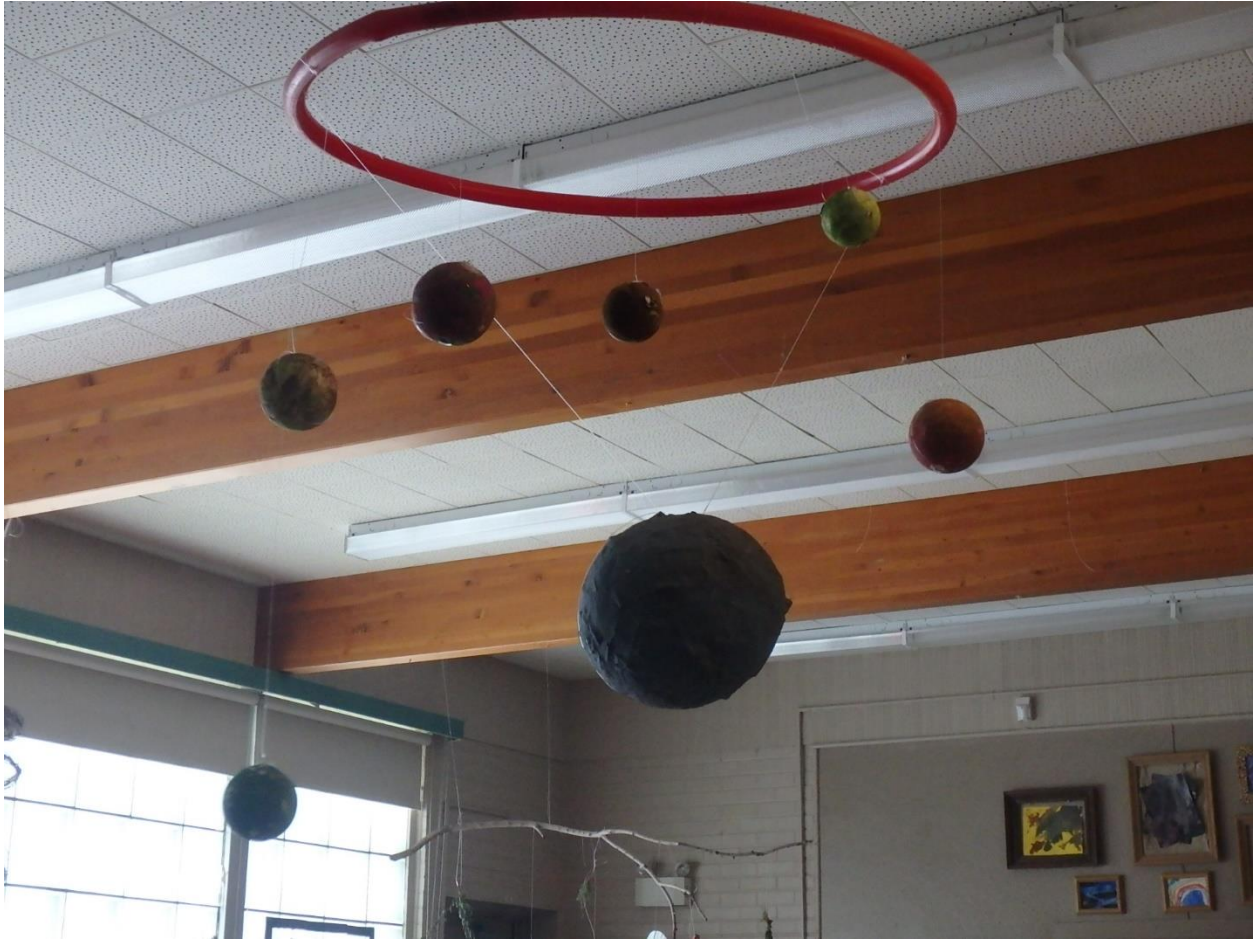


The children were having so much fun with blasting off they asked where they could blast off to?

Stephen said “to the stars”, and Christian said “to the planets”

The teachers set out some Styrofoam balls, plastic Ziploc bags and some paint in a variety of colors so the children could paint planets that would be hung in a mobile in the classroom, just like in the solar system around earth.

The children also created a large planet with paper mache that the later named “Plan B”



As our children finished their space travel adventures, our explorations of space and transportations dwindled and their creativity and thoughts turned to other ideas.

They still have there “Plan B” to remind themselves of their adventures into the unknown.....

Phase 3:

Throughout the whole project, whether it was in the beginning of Exploration of Transportation and turning into the Exploration of space and space exploration and transportation we kept an open running documentation book about all of our adventures and kept their art pertaining to their ideas and pictures and thoughts in

there as well, out in the open for the parents and families to look at, to follow along with us.

The children throughout the project learned a lot of different things.

They learned that there are many, many different types of transportation and within that type of transportation there may be many types of the same type; such as trains that are again very different, such as steam, and diesel and bullet trains, they are all trains, but very different.

The children learned to ask questions and they learned that men and women can do the same jobs.

One little boy in our room was very surprised to learn that a woman could be a fire fighter.

He thought only boys could do this job. It was great when she came to visit and explained that women can do this job too!

Developmentally it opened all of the children's vocabulary.

It also brought the children together in un-interrupted play and communicating together and sharing where some of our pre-schoolers may not have been before.

They were turn taking and using elements of socializing through play on a joint interest.

We heard the children reciting words back that they had heard in stories and that they had heard listening to stories and using in their play with friends.

In the marble table, using a large tube saying it was the Hubble telescope is a big deal for preschoolers.

Counting down countlessly so they could blast off was using their counting and mathematical skills which is fantastic that there were other elements being used and brought into it.

When the children were focused on transportation and trucks, a lot of focus was on science and equations.

How much can the trucks carry? How many rocks can your truck carry and how much can they dump?

It was counting and carrying and equations without the children knowing they were calculating them out.

It was fantastic to see them using them every day and fascinating to see them using them.

Teacher Reflection

Exploration of Transportation was a very good topic to choose with children who are very geared and into all vehicles that move.

Little, small. All and any colors and loud or quiet and in any shape of vehicles, two wheels or four.

Emergency vehicles or just an everyday vehicle or a mighty machine.

Our preschoolers are all into the vehicles that go vroom!!

The project surprised us in the way that it progressed for it took a turn when we brought in books on all transportation and there were books on space transportation and a lot, if not all of our children became fixated on space transportation.

So very quickly we went from earthly transportation to space transportation and all things space!

It was amazing in how much they wanted to know and how excited they became and how quickly and how entwined they became.

In the knowledge they were learning, the songs they were singing and the new terms they were learning they were staying connected with their new found connection and keeping with it day after day and building on it.

It was fascinating to watch and to be a part of it!

