



The Willow Window

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As the Willow door opens for the first time (pun intended), I can't get the image of all the years prior out of my head. There are tears, laughter, excitement, accidents, hugs, and growth. Some of you dropped off your first child to school for the first time. That's a lot of firsts! We all know that firsts can be intimidating and a little frightening.

In anticipation of the "NEW," Emma and I decided to plan the week with simple provocation and activities that allow for open-ended materials and critical thinking. We explored mixing colors with tempera paint for the first couple of days and painting large rocks/pine cones. Henry said, "it's really hard to paint the pinecones," and Curtis

found peace with carefully painting each seed scale. Jamie agreed with me that the pinecones looked like ice cream cones.

For the second part of the week, we wanted to integrate some sensorial activity with nature, and some extra special items from our schools loose part shelf.

We had green playdough with seed scales, small wood blocks, and faux diamonds, or "ice" as Clara called them.

Painting at the easel is an essential part of the classroom, and we found out that



we have a lot of children who enjoy collaborating. Also, the keyless remote that lives in the dramatic play area has many children walking around, pointing it at various materials in hopes that "something amazing" will happen. When Vida approached me with the remote and a puzzled look, I questioned, "I wonder what car that belongs to?". She started to point down at the toy cars that the children were playing with on the rug. Great connection!

And finally, before Earth became Mars, we took a walk around the shopping center and introduced our new friends to the Dragon, clock tower, mermaids, book store, and the bike racks. I am excited to explore the broader community once we learn more about safety.



In all, we had a great first week! Have a wonderful weekend, and we will see you next week!

