



Oak Journal

March 6, 2020

Written by Holly



“Here you go” **Delphi Mae** said to **Vivi**, as she handed her a piece of fabric she had just cut from the weaving table. “Thanks” she replied, and then turned toward **Everly** to discuss where it should be placed on their evolving work of art. Between the three of them, they had figured out that just the right amount of paint would secure strips of fabric onto the paper the same way that glue does. They continued this process for quite some time, always checking in with one another;

“Do you want this one?”

“No, maybe that color.”

“Okay, long or short?”

“Medium. And we can put it right here!”

When they decided they were finished, I asked them if they had a title, which they did not, but they *had* already made the decision that Vivi would be the one to take it home. With a great deal of convincing, I was able to persuade her to let me keep it at school for a while to showcase (check out our front door).



The final product of their efforts really blew me away. The colors, the thoughtfulness, the composition... something about it spoke to me. After some thought, I realized that it wasn't so much the product as it was the process that had me so impressed. These girls started with just three primary colors and ended up with an expression of collaboration, innovation, and friendship without any kind of guidance from an adult.



Process Art is art that is child-directed, choice-driven, and celebrates the experience of discovery. In process art, the final product is always unique and the focus lies in the creation of the work, not the outcome. I don't think I always give enough credit to process art, perhaps it's the schooling in me that has led me to be

inclined to focus on the final product rather than the steps it took to get there. Becoming an early childhood educator, and then eventually a Mom, has shown me how much value there is in the journey. Observing children on this journey is such a gift and can teach us a lot about how their minds are working.

It can still be a challenge, though, as an educator and parent to just be able to take a step back and observe, especially if you had planned an activity with a final product in mind. The



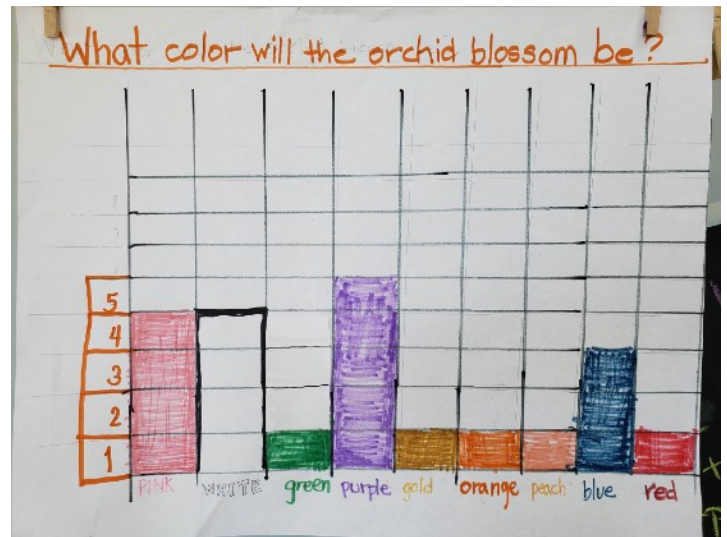
first time I was forced to confront this (in the best way possible) was during my first year at Curious Minds. Avery (Harper's older sister) had created a beautiful painting using bright colors and shapes, and then at the very end used a tool to smear it all together into a big brown splotch.

"Aw, I liked it when you had all the bright colors, Avery!"

"Well then maybe you should make your own Teacher Holly."

How will you take a step back and enjoy the process this week?





Activities

Making Field Guide cards of the
Shore Crab
Counting with Partners
Illustrating and Editing Stories
Multimedia Collage
Pouring & Scooping

Materials

Sharpie and watercolors
Stones, Dice, Loose Parts
Tempera Paint Sticks
Glue, Fabric, Flower Petals
Water Beads, Glass Jars,
Measuring Spoons