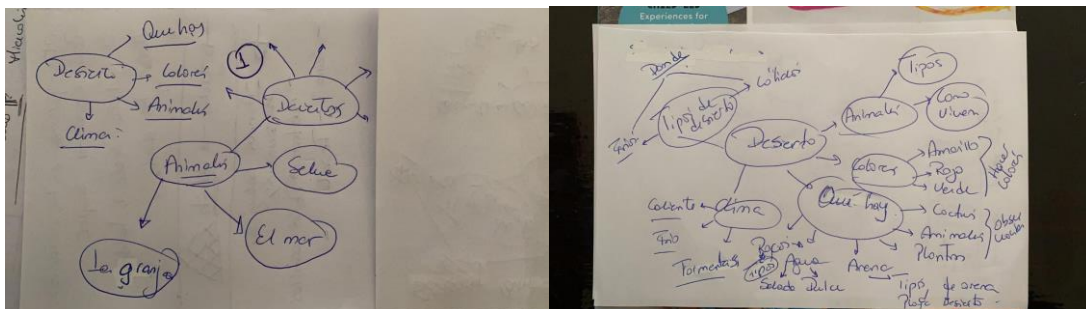


Seedlings project at Strathcona

We encourage you and your family to ask or talk with your child about the activities, concepts learned, and projects developed at seedlings. We believe this will cement your child's knowledge and increase their curiosity through different ideas and your exploration with them. This will create a chance for you and your child to learn together (in our opinion a very valuable thing) and create a broader range of ideas your child and other children can bring and discuss in the preschool.

The DESERT

A group in the children in the classroom, showed interest in learning about animals and their habitats.



Our “***Desert Project***” started through the children’s motivation and interest in animals and their habitats. Knowing this, we started to develop the following project map and in turn the “***The Desert Project***”.

Having the interest of the kids in mind, we designed different centers that we altered and enriched in the next 3 weeks to support the project and the children's interest with the intent of developing curiosity around the project.

INVESTIGATION AND OBSERVATION CENTER



In the Investigation and observation center, we created a collection of things one would find in the desert (for example a cactus) so that the kids could explore and learn about the environment (even if it was just an imitation).

Together with the children, we talked and shared thoughts, discussing these elements, parts of the desert. After discussing the elements introduced at the center, the kids had the opportunity to draw what they observed in our investigation center.

LANGUAGE CENTER

In our language center, we introduced the kids to new words of concepts related to the desert such as animals, plants, and other things it is made up of. The words we taught them include: cactus, desierto, suricato, serpiente cascabel, sol, calor, lagarto, camello, gacela. Our language center had pictures and books where the children could learn about the desert and match the word in Spanish with the element or animal. We helped them with learning the words and their meanings and depending on each child's ability encouraged and got them to start writing some of the words they had learned. Some of the kids decided to draw those animals and label them with their corresponding names.



CONSTRUCTION CENTRE

Our goal with this center was to invite the kids to build different structures and things that can be found in deserts for example hoses or pyramids. We learned together the variety of different conditions of people living in deserts and through our invitation and the kids' motivation the kids created their own structures of buildings found in deserts. We motivated the kids to do so through their exploration of the project looking at books and

other sources with pictures of desert buildings in them and discussing the information found in them.



As we learned how people live in deserts, the children also had the opportunity to learn how different peoples in the desert make clothes.



SENSORY BIN



It was an amazing opportunity for the kids to have a sample of all the amazing animals and plants that can be found in the desert. We used it to learn vocabulary and have fun!!!

MOLDING CENTRE



This was a very busy center at our Atelier! We offered to the kids, play-dough, natural materials and sugar cubes on the table so they could build their own pyramids, oasis and so much more.

DRAWING CENTRE

The drawing center was a busy center as well. We offered the children a different sub-topic each week related to the desert, so they could draw what they were curious about in relation to the project. Through the presence of books, pictures and different materials like water pitting and pastels at the center, we invited them to draw the desert, its animals, pyramids and sand storms.



The atelier is always a place to learn and create. In addition to these centers, we offered amazing science experiment/demonstration or activity in our exploration table every day.

EXPLORATION TABLE

FREE DRAWING CENTRE'



As well as observational drawings, free drawings at our preschool always welcome. We allow the kids to express themselves looking for new materials and new kinds of mediums to explore and create beautiful pieces of art. At seedlings, every child is an artist.



We also have amazing centers that are not related with the main project but are made there for the kids to keep exploring and using the Spanish language as much as they can.

MATH CENTRE

We explored, concepts of numbers and quantities. Last week we introduced concepts of measurements like centimeters and grams. Every child had the opportunity to explore the centers according with their age and previous knowledge. They made their own theories and had the time to discuss, explore, and or prove them.



SELF PORTRAIT CENTRE

This beautiful center, is almost always a part of the layout off our classroom. For us, as a Reggio inspired preschool, is important to stimulate in our children a strong self-esteem and knowledge of their body.



LOSE PARTS CENTRE

This is a very important center as it permits the children to be creative, critical thinkers and problem solvers. This interaction with different materials present in their environments, promotes physical, cognitive and social-emotional development.



LIGHT TABLE

This has been an amazing addition to our classroom!! All the kids have enjoyed playing with the shapes. As part of the Reggio approach, the light table promotes concentration and focus while children are playing freely.



Books

These are some of the books the teachers have read or left available for the children to explore in the last weeks. All of them have been read to the kids in Spanish.

- Mouse Paint by Ellen Walsh
- The day the crayons quit by Drew Daywalt
- Desert animals by Sian Smith
- Desert by Anderson Sheila
- Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
- The story of buildings by Patrick Dillon
- Pyramids by National Geographic

Songs:

We learned these songs. You can use the links to keep practicing with your child.

<https://youtu.be/JjVO1AuRogk> - El desierto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8dilxHvbiM> - La serpiente

We encourage you and your family to ask or talk with your child about the activities, concepts learned, and projects developed at seedlings. We believe this will cement your child's knowledge and increase their curiosity through different ideas and your exploration with them. This will create a chance for you and your child to learn together (in our opinion a very valuable thing) and create a broader range of ideas your child and other children can bring and discuss in the preschool.