

This morning before our Nature Walk we read a book about different kinds of bugs. When Ms. Jennifer turned to the page about spiders, all the children became completely engaged in a conversation about them. Natalie said “spiders like to make webs so they can catch bugs on the web.” Ava said “I watched a movie about a spider and she spun a web and a butterfly got in it and Wilbur the pig said ‘Please let it go’ and she let it go.” Abbi asked “how does a spider make the web?” Ms. Jennifer explained that a spider makes a web from a runny silk inside its body and that it comes out through little knobs called spinnerets. Then the runny silk sets into thread, which the spider then weaves into a web using its spinnerets like fingers. Abbi then asked “why does the spider not stick to the



web?” Ms. Jennifer wasn’t sure of the answer, so she told Abbi she would check out some spider books from the library tonight and we would try to find out tomorrow. As the discussion about spiders continued, the children asked more questions. Kennedy wondered “how many eyes do spiders have?” Connor asked “how do they shoot out the silk?” Lucas wanted to know “how do spiders sleep?” Ava wanted to know how spiders are made and if they hatch from eggs or not and Madelyn wanted to know how many babies spiders have. We are going to follow the children’s interest and investigate further into the world of spiders. The Reggio Emilia teaching philosophy really emphasizes respect for the children and part of this respect is shown by re-

maining flexible and changing gears to follow their interests. When children are allowed to study what they are interested about in a hands-on way, there is a huge increase in the connections made in all areas of learning.

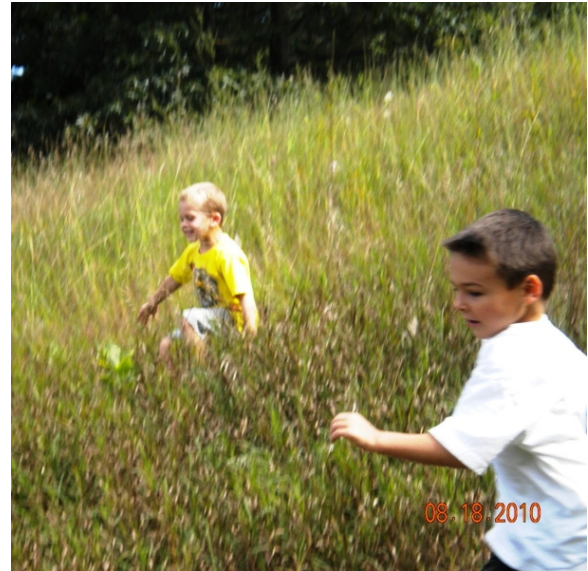


After Circle Time we left for our Nature Walk. When we arrived at the big hill, many of the children went right over to the soft sand and began to use their hands to dig in it.





Some of the children ran up and down the big hill several times. Running on an incline builds gross motor skills such as balance and coordination.



Jayden found and ant crawling on his sleeve. He said "it's an insect because it has six legs and the body parts like an insect." Jayden's friends Connor and Lucas excitedly ran over to Jayden to see the ant. Connor tried to count it's legs, but the ant was too fast.



While we were playing on the big hill, Megan's Nana arrived to join us on our Nature Walk. The children were very excited to meet her Nana

and they brought her many flowers and seeds they found on the hill.





Some of the children asked to write in their Nature Journals. We have noticed a huge increase in the children asking to write in their journals this Summer.

Most of the children will experience things on the big hill for a little while and then ask to draw it in their journals. By spending some time in nature, children can feel refreshed and re-focused. Nature Journaling helps children slow down. And gives them the opportunity to make the time to take in the world.



Devon drew a fish he had seen in the water. He said "it's a red fish in a red pond."

Jayden started out drawing an ant, but then added to his drawing. He said "it's a picture of me with really long legs so that I can jump really high."



Addison wanted to draw a picture of the flowers she found. At first she said "I can't do it." Then after some encouragement, she decided she knew how to draw the flower stems. Then she drew some circles at the top of her stems for the flowers. Megan's Nana was sitting on the blanket with Addison and showed her how to make a flower using a big circle and lots of little circles around it. Addison was very proud of her drawing when she was finished.





Connor and Lilly also decided to draw flowers in their journal.



Collin drew "a spider."



Tyler found some paper with lines on the back of it. He spent some time tracing the lines and then made "an elephant."

While Tristan was drawing in his Journal, a small brown grasshopper jumped on his page. He noted how it was hard to see the grasshopper because it was "camouflaged by the colors."



Natalie drew a person with a silk web coming out of it's body.



Kennedy wrote "a lot words" in her journal.

Madelyn drew "a ball" in her Nature Journal.



On the way back to school we stopped by the pond to throw some pebbles into the water and to watch the fish.

