



Chalk Art by Madisyn, almost 7 (top and center drawings), and Kira, age 7 (bottom drawing).

The bottom two drawings are based on the style of Russian abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky



Buttermilk Chalk Drawings

- chalk in assorted colors
- buttermilk
- white typing paper
- plastic bowl
- colorful sheet of construction paper

Partially fill bowl with buttermilk.

Dip chalk color of choice in buttermilk.

Draw design with wet chalk on white paper.

Dip as needed to keep end wet.

Repeat for each desired chalk color.

Let dry and mount on the construction paper.

"Art Adventures" Session

Summer Sessions continued with an explosion of color and creativity this week at Dimensions ... adventures in art! Children have been discovering a world of beautiful colors, patterns, lines and shapes. Children created unique masterpieces using paint, collage, chalk and sculpture. Each age group has explored different kinds of art materials, and older groups have had a chance to discover the works of famous artists.

Children Explore Creativity in Nature and Themselves

Toddlers

Toddler A was all a-flutter this week as we focused on insects. We began our study of insects by reading the book "Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!" by Jennifer Dussling and acting out our favorite insects from the book. Ella crawled across the floor like a caterpillar. She stopped and turned her body into a ball stating, "I'm turning into a butterfly!" She then jumped and flapped her butterfly wings.



The book "Bug Hunt" by Neecey Twinem led us outside where we conducted our own bug hunts. We collected many bugs, including roly-polys, centipedes, a caterpillar and a lightning bug. On one bug hunting adventure, we took a trip to the Greenhouse. While exploring the Greenhouse, Andrew found a small tomato plant. He picked up the pot and found three red wigglers (worms) underneath. "I want to find more!" he exclaimed as he and Keenan set out to look under every pot in the Greenhouse.



After collecting our bugs, we set up a bug observation aquarium. We used magnifying glasses to observe our insects. We also compared our bugs to the

pictures in our books, and made sketches of the insects we collected.

Contributed by Katie Sharp and Joy Ritchie

Toddler B has been busy this week learning about bugs. To help us get started, we read some great books: "Helpin' Bugs," by Rosemary Longborg and "Bugs & Slugs," by Judy Tatchell. Then we were inspired to explore bugs for ourselves. We went on a bug hunt and discovered many different bugs around our school, in the Nature Explore Classroom™, and in the Greenhouse. Favorite bugs include spiders, ants, bees, flies, centipedes, slugs, worms, and pill bugs (roly polys). The children were most excited about getting messy and digging for worms in the greenhouse.

We've also been talking about the many colors in nature. We were so happy to find so many different colors. Cole found red bricks on his school building. Tommy said the sky was blue and Eli was elated to see the yellow sun in the sky. Caden reminded us of all the green on trees, leaves and grass.

Contributed by Amy Jensen

Infants

This week infants:

- played with plastic bugs
- explored purple items by pulling them out of a tub ... shakers, scarves, toys
- Read books: "Baby Bugs" by Tom Arma and "One to Ten and Back Again," an amazing pull ribbon book about insects by Betty Ann Schwartz and Susie Shakir
- explored the water table on the Nature Explore Classroom™

Several preschoolers visited us to interact with their baby brothers. Will played the marimba on the Nature Explore Classroom™ with brother Drew and Atticus played in the digging space with brother Lazlo.

Contributed by Joleen Podtburg and Denise Topil

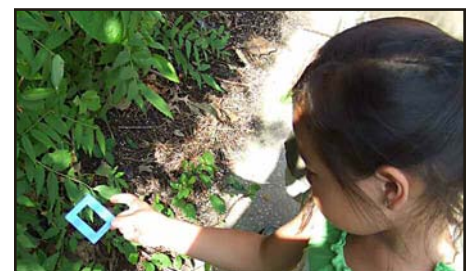
Preschoolers

We read "Look, Look, Look!" by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace as a starting point to our week. The mice in the story use viewfinders to look closely at a portrait on a post card they found. They notice details (colors, lines, patterns, and shapes) in the picture and then recreate it using their own ideas.

We went on a viewfinder walk outside and, like the mice in the story, looked closely at interesting designs, shapes, patterns and colors in nature and architecture like:

- dew drops on leaves and spiderwebs
- dots (small white flower buds)
- lines (cracks in the sidewalk, on leaves, on bricks)
- the colors we saw everywhere – red, pink, yellow and white flowers ... leaf stems on a tree were pink, red and green ... blue sky ... white clouds ... green grass

The next day we thought about what we saw through our viewfinders and experimented with lines and dots to recreate the shapes, patterns and lines we noticed.



We used our own ideas and imaginations to create beautiful designs. We are all artists!

Contributed by Cindy Heinzman

(continued)

Preschool Groups

(cont.)



This week was all about exploring creativity ... our own and nature's. We read the book "Look, Look, Look!" by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and had fun using our own ideas to create colorful shapes and patterns when we:

- painted with strings on sticks
- put strings in paint cans and experimented with using the strings to paint on paper
- experimented with marble painting (paper was put in a tub and paint was poured on it, then marbles were rolled around on the paper)
- created collages with lines and dots on construction paper
- explored viewfinders and went on viewfinder walks

Contributed by Heather Guess and Kristine Roit

Marble Paintings



Dalton age 3 1/2



Eva, almost 5 years old



Aidan, 5 1/2 years old

Photographs contributed by Katie Sharp, Samantha Overton, and Beth Pauley. Buttermilk Chalk Drawings recipe shared by Kathy Marshall.

Dimensions' Adventures in Art Summer Sessions Week (cont.)

Kindergarten – First Grade

This week we explored the elements of Wassily Kandinsky. He was an early 20th Century Russian artist who was credited with creating the first abstract painting. Kandinsky associated certain colors with musical instruments. He did this through color. Therefore, this week we explored art by listening to music and using the Look-Move-Build-Sketch method. We looked at Kandinsky paintings and identified shapes, color and movement.

We "moved" with various colored rainbow dancers while a friend painted our movement. We "built" and created art with parquetry shapes and transferred the images of the shapes to paper using a variety of colored markers.



Some of the comments by the children made during the week:

Kira: "I really liked the bleeding tissue paper art we did. It was fun"

Burkett: "I liked when we moved with the scarves. I think I made the best painting I ever had. It was fun."

Ellyssa enjoyed "coloring and then tracing out so my art will stand out"



Taylor: "I liked ribbons! Because I liked the colors."

Cory: "I like Blue and I like circles that are Blue and paintings that are Blue." (Kandinsky associated blue with the sound of a cello and organ.)

Parker: "I liked painting to the ribbon dancing. Both teachers had fun things."

MacKenzie: "Collin was a new friend I met."

Collin: "Doing the play ground (Nature Explore Classroom™) was my favorite."

Contributed by Joyce White and Kris Van Langingham

Second – Fifth Grade

The emphasis for this week has been on "continuation" and one of the creative themes has been "fairy houses." We have been looking at ways to add layers on a daily basis by creating new textures, details and patterns.

Early in the week we went on a hike to the Children's Zoo. Along the way we collected a variety of natural materials to use on our projects. Acorn caps, leaves, odd pieces of wood and bark, a bird's nest, a cicada and even camel hair have found new lives in our creative works. The "fairy houses" have evolved from basic construction to complex detailing, each with their own story to tell.



Students also assisted with another tour this week, for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. There was considerable interest in how Dimensions uses gardening to promote literacy and the role that children take in the seed-to-harvest aspect of the garden area.

An on-going result of our time together this summer is enjoying a salad from the garden. Children are harvesting, washing, and tearing up lettuce, and snipping beans, direct from plantings in our garden to enjoy at lunchtime. Edible pansies were added this week!



Contributed by Holly Murdoch

Summer Sessions Bookshelf

- Baby Bugs by Tom Arma
- One to Ten and Back Again by Betty Ann Schwartz and Susie Shakir
- Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Jennifer Dussling
- Bug Hunt by Neece Twinem
- Helpin' Bugs by Rosemary Longborg
- Bugs & Slugs by Judy Tatchell
- Look, Look, Look! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Staff Birthdays

Theresa Frey.....	June 30
Nancy Rosenow.....	July 1
Cami Burchett	July 7
Barb Jensen	July 15
Denise Topil	July 21
Kathy Tichota	July 22
Tara Hild	August 7
Kristi Reitz	August 13
Chris Dickhaut	August 16
Sue Erdkamp	August 17
Ann Watt	August 19

Nature Explore Classrooms™ are part of a national initiative that we are working with in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line ... www.dimensionsfoundation.org or www.firstplymouth.org