

THE REGGIO EMILIA PHILOSOPHY

The Reggio Emilia philosophy which CDC follows views children as strong and capable, and uses an "emergent curriculum" in which each child is an active participant. In this series of newsletter articles entitled "Curriculum Corner", we will be looking at different aspects of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and how they impact our work with children and families. In future issues we will be featuring projects from all of our centers to provide you with further insight into what the children are learning. We hope you will enjoy this window into the classrooms at CDC!



this issue

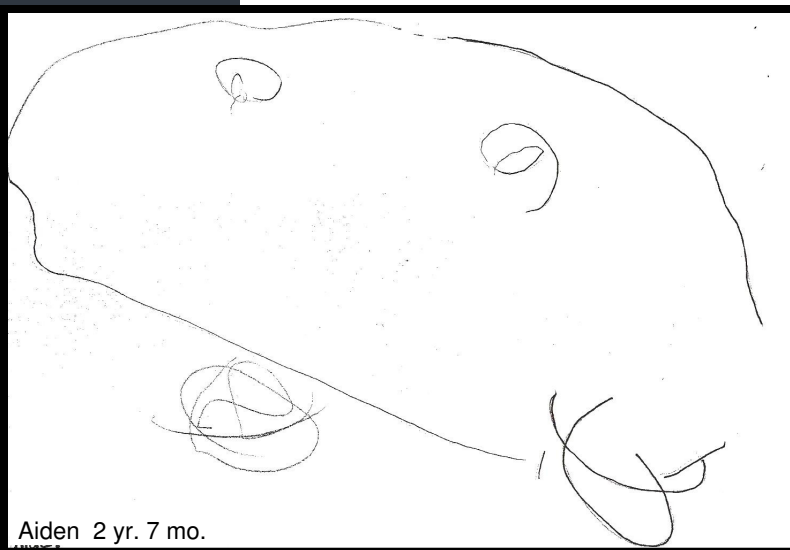
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Reggio in the Toddler Room

Infants and toddlers are not always able to express themselves verbally but they have a lot to say! Teachers introduce the "languages" (a Reggio Emilia term) of drawing, painting, playdoh, clay, collage, wire, and weaving, to learn more about your children and to offer them opportunities to communicate in a variety of different ways. Teachers look at photos and drawings of children from 18 months through 3 years, and observe changes in the way toddlers hold a pencil and draw lines. In the drawing below, one older toddler drew a bus with windows and wheels. This is a huge developmental growth step from scribbling!

As the children grow older and become more comfortable with these "languages," they are able to express what they are thinking by drawing, painting, molding clay, or creating a collage. **Although "art projects" may not be sent home every day**, teachers provide wonderfully unique experiences that are not available at home on a daily basis. **Because they are tactile learners**, the teachers immerse your children in activities that stimulate their senses: smell, touch, taste, hearing, as well as develop fine motor skills found in activities like cutting with scissors, molding clay, and holding a pencil or marker. Whether it is captured in artwork or in a photograph that is put into your children's portfolios, these rich experiences are not only developmentally appropriate but are preparing your young learners for a lifetime of exploration!



Aiden 2 yr. 7 mo.