

Exploring Art in Different Ways

I noticed how the children in my room love to make art. I wanted to do an activity with the children in the rest time that would help them stay calm and do something they would like. I decided to use sticks that I found lying around and dry pines to make paint brushes and to use washi tapes to let the children decorate the handle of the brush. This would help them in many areas: fine motor skills, concentration, creativity, etc.

When the activity took place, I was so nervous that children might not like it or stay around long enough for it, some children did make one and leave, but I had quite a few that stayed and ended up making 3 to 4 of them. We had a conversation about how we were making paintbrushes, I showed them the one I had made and then told them how they would have to leave it at daycare so that we could paint with it. They were a bit disappointed that they could not take it home, but they were so happy when they were told that they could paint with them and then take them home.

At first, I wanted to do the whole brush, but soon I noticed that the children were enjoying just the handle bit and some were getting frustrated so I told them that I would do the brush bit and bring it back for them to paint.





Why this?

I chose to do this activity based on the observations made of the children. I saw that they had a real interest in learning and doing things. I saw that they love art and I wanted to give them new material and introduce new things. I wanted to show them that they can make things from nature and relate it to nature. I wanted to do this activity outside, to make more of the natural world present, unfortunately, it was quite too cold for it to be done this week. I was also choosing to show that with the right guidance, children can do anything that nothing is too complicated for them, and that they do not need to always be limited to the world around them.

I am continuing this activity and we will be making more art with this. Also, the other educators enjoyed it so much that they are now thinking of different ways for the children to make art.

Your interpretation of the significance of this moment:

I was just responding to what I saw the children enjoying. We live on Indigenous lands and they have a huge connection to nature, this was me trying to slowly bring the conversation of what nature provides us and what we can do with the materials we have. I think this moment matters because it allows the children to slow down and get creative. And in our room, we need activities that help the children to slow down and be calm.