

Learning Together With and From Each Other



**If you want to go fast go alone...if you want to go far go together...
(An African Proverb)**

In our environment children and teachers learn from each other in reciprocal interactions that enhance critical thinking, wondering, curiosity and a desire for learning. We started our journey with a decision to celebrate the differences and similarities of the children in our group. Opportunities were created to bring children together to communicate, cooperate and learn with one another. It became apparent through observation that painting was of great interest to this group of children.

We started with group painting which was the first in a series of five experiences. The children were asked to be mindful of where other children had already painted as they approached this area. I was keen to know how the children would respond and in what way it would affect their learning.

Documenting the process of learning together with the children offers an invitation to revisit and reflect. The children commented with a great sense of ownership:

*WE did it, I did it too...
This is OUR painting, it's the kinder painting...
When we paint together we learn about the brushes but we also learn how not to paint on other people's painting...*

*We learn to wait our turn...
It's up for the mums and dads to see... When we do work together we can put it up on the wall...*

We offered small groups of children opportunities to explore colour mixing as part of a colour investigation.

When we mix the colours the paint touches...When you mix red, white, red, white its getting rainbowish...

