Summer Science Session 2

Building and Construction

An investigation of building.

The children discussed how things are built, and read a book on buildings. They used different material to construct an object. Masking tape was used as concrete to hold the object together. The children learned that it takes different materials to hold a building together. For example bricks, stones, concrete, and steel.

The children worked together on building in the block area.
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The children discussed shapes and how many things are made of shapes. They traced and cut out shapes to form a structure. The children also used their problem solving skills to construct an object with pipe cleaner and paper. They had to decide how to make the pipe cleaner stay together and what they could use to do so.

Imagineering is what the children are doing in the block area, water table and table. Using their imagination while engineering.
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The children explored with shapes. They sorted shapes, traced shapes to form a building, and matched the shapes to a photo. They learned that shapes make up many things.

The children went on a shape hunt around the building to see how everything has a shape.
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The children explored more with shapes. They used play dough shapes to symbolize tile. The children made a pattern with shape stamps to build a tall tower.

"I am building a bridge to go across"

"I can make lots of squares"
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The children first drew out a Blue Print, and then took it to the block area to build their structure. One of the structures is a school house and the other an office building.

The children sorted different building materials. The discussed the touches and what they were used for. The little imagineers constructed with many materials. They built a train and pretended to go for a ride.
The children continue to build with different materials. They used clay and sticks to create structures. The children sorted rocks and asked questions about the color, shape, and size of the rocks.

The children wrote in their journals about their experiences in building and construction.
Today with Play Institute the children read a book “Raise the Roof” and they drew pictures of a house. The children wrote out a blueprint and experimented with tools and materials used at a construction site. They wore aprons and tool belts to do their investigations.

The children sorted real screws and washers. They worked as a team to build a marble maze.
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While experimenting with different materials,

the children used flour, salt, and water to make a clay substance to build a rock wall.

The children used tile to build roads and moon sand to build a wall.
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The children read the book "At a Construction Site" which explored how a new sidewalk is poured from concrete. Then at the tables, they drew a picture of the house they wanted to construct, and created it using sticks and/or q-tips with glue. The children discussed how the frame of the house is important to keep the house together and how important it is to have a strong foundation.
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Building and Construction

An investigation of building

After reading the story of the Three Little Pigs with puppets, the children built different types of houses. Margaret said, "We are building the house of sticks and they are building the house of bricks." They reenacted the story with puppets and tried to blow their house down.

The children used cardboard pieces and glue to create a structure. They experimented with the physics of creating 3-D structures. We discussed how cardboard feels and saw how strong their structure was by blowing on it like the big bad wolf!
The children worked with small motor skills to build with wood. They counted how many would stack up before falling down. Marshmallow and spaghetti was used to make shapes and help the children problem solve. Recycled objects were used to make structures. The children had to use their imagination to make the objects work. One of the children constructed the "leaning tower pisa".

The children also observed the material to make concrete. They experienced how a liquid becomes a solid.