

# Just Me and My Shadow

## Building a Shadow

To encourage the children to see shadows in different ways other than just their own and those made by plants and trees, we gave the children the opportunity to make a shadow. The children helped the teachers collect some random objects around the room to take outside. The children were used the objects to build different structures. The teachers helped the children see the unique shadows the structures cast. The children then worked to see what other shadow shapes they could make by building new structures.



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## Experimenting with Flashlights

To begin the investigation into shadows, we first wanted to explore light. What is light and where does it come from? To begin looking at light the class started with flashlights. The children explored all the ways that they could use the flashlights. The class worked with them first during circle time by learning how to turn them on and observing the light they emitted. The children were very interested in how they could get the light to shine all the way up to the ceiling. The children then incorporated the flashlights into their play.



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## Experimenting with a Light Projector

To introduce the children to other types of light sources, the teacher added a light projector to the classroom. The teachers explained to the children how the projector casts light onto the wall. The children explored how the projector allows the shadow of an object to project on the wall when an object was placed on the projector. The children were also very interested in how colored, transparent objects made colors on the wall, but opaque objects did not.



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## Making My Shadow

The children were very interesting in their own shadows. Because of uncooperative weather it was difficult to make our shadows outside. So the class decided to make their shadows using the projector. The children stood in front of the projector and made silly body moves. Each child decided on a pose and then another child traced their shadow. The children then worked to color in their shadows.



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## My Shadow Outside

The children worked on finding shadows outside and figured out the light source for the shadows was the sun. The children really enjoyed creating their own shadows inside the classroom so the teacher brought out some chalk and let the children draw their shadows outside too. At first the children wanted to lay down on the concrete and have their friends trace them. The teachers had to help the children find the shadows on the ground and then trace them. The children worked together to trace each other's shadows.



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## Shadow Puppet Show

The children in the Pilot room are big fans of putting on shows. They put on the 3 Little Pigs Play a few months prior to this investigation. While reading books about shadows, they recognized a lot of references to shadow puppets. The children wanted to make their own shadow puppets, so we set up a puppet area on the loft. The teachers helped the children hang up a large sheet on the loft. The children held up flashlights and used their hands to put on a shadow puppet show.



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