

LIGHT AND COLOR

Classroom:
Infant/Young Toddler

Length of Investigation:
1.5 months





Beginning the Project

The Seedling classroom celebrated a teacher's birthday by hanging mylar streamers in the windows. One afternoon, as the children woke up from rest, they saw colors of light dancing and gleaming around the classroom walls, floor and ceiling. The sunlight reflecting off the colored mylar streamers created a colorful light show for all to see! With an awareness of their curiosity and enthusiasm, the teachers began a study on exploring color, light and reflection.

Developing the Project

In addition to the streamers, the teachers made sensory bottles filled with different colored water which were placed on the window sill. The sunlight reflected the colors onto the walls and the floor.





Even children who weren't walking yet, still enjoyed scooting towards the light reflections and reaching out to touch the colors.



The children participated in a few art projects to further explore color and light. They glued colorful strips of paper to CDs which were hung from the ceiling like a mobile. They also used colored tissue paper squares to make a stained glass collage on contact paper. The finished collage was hung on the low window pane to allow light to shine through. The children frequently went over to the area and some exclaimed, “Colors!”



A colorful jeweled spinner was introduced into the classroom and eventually, the children understood that it had to be placed in the sunlight in order to make the colors reflect around the classroom. This showed us that not only were the children interested in colors, but they were also beginning to make connections about light sources.





The light table helped to furthered light explorations by placing different colorful objects on the table and observing the way the children interacted with these materials.





Adding a clear sensory tub to the light table allowed us to put sand on the table, resulting in a fun, colorful effect when the children used paint brushes to brush the sand away.



Colored flashlights were a big hit! Children enjoyed flashing the lights all around the room: on toys, at teachers, and even in their own faces!



Ending the Project

While most of the children in the classroom were not talking yet, their enthusiasm through big smiles and happy squeals showed that they had a true interest in the exploration. Their actions, such as placing the jeweled spinner in the sunlight showed their age appropriate understanding of light, reflections, and color.

After almost 2 months of exploring light and color, the flashlight exploration lead to also talking about the dark. Soon, the children developed an interest in the night sky and kept mentioning the moon. The light project began to fizzle out and a new exploration began on the dark, the night sky and the moon.