

September 5-9



More Than Just Building

Our block area has been a focal point of play for a while hence the increase in size! Recently, we have seen a lot more intentional play happening in this area. As you know, we encourage the children to plan their agenda for the day by using a representation in their agenda book. In the block area, we have writing tools available for the children's use and they have primarily been used for a child to write their name to save their structure. This week, we saw the planning process flow into the block studio as Jacob pre designed his structure. Bare in mind, that our friend Jacob has had lots of opportunities for building drawing and writing. He is somewhat of an expert block builder having worked with these materials for almost a year. His drawing serves as a model for other children and it's value was seen soon after completion of the rainbow tower. The tower got accidentally knocked down. There was clear disappointment until the children realized we could look at the plan and re-build it! So many learning domains are reached by simply playing with blocks. Here the children worked together, (social development), participated in patterning, (mathematical development), problem solved, (cognitive development), and used representational drawings to convey a message, (literacy development). The blocks offer so much more than simply building and yet the children are just playing.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday September 14

Walking trip to Foodland

Thursday, September 15

Uncle Wayne Sing Along

10am

Friday, September 16

POG Meeting 4pm-5pm

Tuesday, September 20

Open House 530pm-630pm

Thursday, September 22

Walking trip to the library

930am-1130am



Monkey see, monkey do



Children are constantly watching, keen observers of the curious world around them. There is so much truth in the novelist, James Baldwin's words when he says, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." Modeling for children is one way that we teach them. Modeling happens throughout our day as we go about our routines as illustrated in the

picture. Sebastian woke up early and saw one of his teachers working on their computer at naptime. He flipped his book to mimic a laptop and started showing Miss Gemma pretend pictures of her in between doing his pretend work. Meal times are perfect opportunities to model manners and desired behaviors such as sitting when we eat or not talking with our mouths full, cleaning up after ourselves and making healthy choices. Modeling also occurs in an intentional way when we think out loud with children to give them a window into how we make the choices we make. An example may be doing a puzzle with a child and commenting that the colors or pictures look similar and that's how you knew the pieces went together or narrating a drawing when trying to represent an object.

Children's play is ripe with opportunities for imitation. They are practicing at being you! Just like all baby mammals, play is the way that humans practice the skills they will need in adulthood. In our Imua Mart we have seen the children waiting in line at our grocery store, struggling with their full carts, and trying to gather items on their shopping lists. Next week, we will take a trip to Foodland to see a grocery store in action. We will observe all the roles from customer to checker to deli clerk. We will also incorporate literacy and math into our trip by creating a grocery list and shopping for ingredients for our next cooking activity.

