

PROJECT WORK



What is a “Project?”

A project is a student led in-depth investigation

Elements of a Project

- a topic is chosen from the students’ interests or a shared experience
- the teacher identifies what the children already know by creating a web or list of prior knowledge
- students work with teacher to make a list of what they want to know/questions
- teachers facilitate exploration of the topic through: classroom environment, field visits, guest speakers, books, art...
- students document their learning and share it with others

Learning Outcomes of a Project

- because the teacher has not put strict parameters on the work of the students, the learning possibilities are endless and fueled by the natural curiosity of the children
- during the course of a project, students typically: gather data, write letters, make lists, organize information (through the use of graphs, tallying, Venn diagrams...), use books as a resource, present information to classmates and others, work collaboratively, and use varying art media to express their ideas

Social Emotional Outcomes of a Project

- the heart of project work is the belief that children are strong, competent and born ready to learn
- through the work, children experience and begin to understand others’ wonder, excitement, confusion and joy
- children form trusting relationships with teachers because their intellect is honored
- children develop confidence and independence, as they are made a true partner in the learning process