“Umbrella Projects”
An “Umbrella Project” is a way for teachers, children and their families to think about big ideas. Projects will look different for different groups, yet everyone can collaborate together as a project takes on form throughout the school year.

Documentation
Teachers work with specialist teachers to create documentation by listening, questioning and reflecting on the children’s thinking throughout an “umbrella project”. Documentation happens through the collection of language, wonderings, predictions, drawings, photographs and artifacts. All of these pieces can be combined to communicate to the viewer the journey that the child or class has taken, and where they are in the process.

Stages of the Inquiry Process:
- Initial Engagement: Noticing, wondering, playing
- Exploration: Observing, exploring, questioning
- Investigation: Describing, planning, reflecting
- Communication: Sharing discoveries, representing ideas.

Project Zero “Thinking Routines” used with the children in the Studio:
- See/Think Wonder: Exploring works of art & other interesting things.
- Think Pair Share: Active reasoning and explanation.
- I Used to Think...Now I Think...: Reflecting on how and why thinking has changed.

Exploring The Hundred Languages of Children in the Art Studio

Drawing:
Children are invited to explore different types of drawing tools, observe and render from nature, experiment with how lines can be created, use lines to create shapes and to visualize how ideas can be turned into drawings.

Painting:
Children are invited to explore different types of paint and painting tools, observe how paint behaves on different surfaces, explore how colors can bump and mix together, how drawings can be turned into paintings.

Clay:
Children are invited to squish, pound, mold, stick together, roll, test it, add sticks, leaves, or loose parts. Children are invited to inquire: what happens when I add water? What happens if I leave it outside? What happens when clay cooks inside the kiln?

Mixed Media:
Children are invited to create using loose parts, to test their building skills, exploring how materials can be connected together, question what materials are best suited to envision different ideas? Children are supported throughout their thinking process.

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