

First Harvest

The concept of time passing can be difficult for children to grasp. For this reason, along with others, the Reggio Emilia philosophy encourages giving children as many opportunities as possible to experience time and change happening around them. One great way to do this is to care for plants. The children have loved watching the plants grow, some from seeds, and have been particularly excited for them to produce their fruit. This week, two strawberries were ready! This presented us with an opportunity to do some group scientific observation.



Miss Renae: "What do you notice about the strawberries?"

Alden: "It's red!"

Mila: "There are little holes for the seeds. How do they stick?"

Lake: "To me, it feels kind of squishy."

Tori: "It looks yummy!"

Group discussions encourage *collaboration* and develop *vocabulary*.

As the children share their observations with each other, the group decides to draw the strawberries up close. Drawing their observations and ideas helps preschoolers *formulate thoughts and questions*.



Lake notes, "Once the strawberry is in the dirt, you can't eat it."

After carefully dotting in each seed, Mila wants to write down her questions about the strawberries. Miss Mary and Miss Renae point out each sound of the words she wants to write. Through experiences like this, children learn *naturally emergent writing and reading skills*.



Of course, tasting the strawberries is the crowd favorite.

Mila: "It tastes sweet."
Lake: "It tastes lemony. Like a lemon."
After tasting his piece, Alden holds it up for everyone to see.
Alden: "It tastes like... strawberries!"

