

The Joy of Cool, Damp Soil in Pursuit of Worms

It's a cool morning. The grass is still dewy and the soil moist and dark brown. The area under a tree is inviting and quiet. A stick becomes a tool for digging, a tree stump is toppled over, a rock is tilted and moved to the side. Investigation is a solo project until a friend joins to search for the wriggly pink worms. When discovery is made, an announcement is made, "Hey guys, over here! We found worms!!"



The art of research already exists in the hands of children acutely sensitive to the pleasure of surprise. The wonder of learning, of knowing, of understanding is one of the first, fundamental sensations each human being expects from experiences faced alone or with others.

- Loris Malaguzzi



The freedom to explore, investigate, and experiment in nature are gifts to children. By allowing the cognitive processes to unfold at the pace set by the children, collaboration and communication skills are used, as well as problem-solving and cause-and-effect reactions. A respect and interest in our natural world and all living beings is crucial for social emotional development.

“Oh! I think it wants to wiggle under my sleeve!”

