



Looking Ahead
May 11, Fri. 10am-12pm. Open House: Follow your Child
May 17, Thu. 6pm. Violeta Parent Evening
 4/23 Snack, laundry, flowers: **Derin**



"The seed of mathematics must be very, very carefully sown... little by little, one may introduce [the child] to the power of symbolic mathematical notation and the shortcuts it provides – but at this stage, great care should be taken never to divorce such symbolic knowledge from the child's quantitative intuitions."
 Stanislas Dehaene, *The Number Sense*

"Great creations come from the mathematical mind, so we must always consider all that is mathematical as a means of mental development"
 M.Montessori



We enjoyed the Science Festival at Senott Park! We constructed rockets and made them fly! We also made huge bubbles!

The Sound Game: "I spy something that starts with the sound "T" ... can you guess what it is?"

En español:

M: "Veo, veo"

N: "¿Qué ves?"

M: "Una cosa que comienza con el sonido "T" ... ¿Qué es?"

The child is born with a brain prepared to use mathematics to understand the world around her. Very small babies have a sense of quantity (two is different than one), or a number sense. But this sense needs to be developed in order to transform it into a powerful tool. And we do this through the development of a language of mathematics—a code, a vocabulary, and grammar (the way things are related in this language)—that has meaning, that can express information and create new descriptions and explanations in a precise and accurate manner. In order to build a meaningful language, we start with concrete experiences of quantity. Then we introduce the symbols and associate them with the quantities. Then we introduce the grammar, starting with the decimal system.

Mathematics is all around us. In our classroom, we use mathematics in all areas, we experience sequencing, measuring, and precision in practical life; we analyze, compare and find patterns in geometric shapes and sizes, in colors, smells, textures, sounds in the sensorial area; we talk about numbers and write them with letters in the languages area, and we count many things. In your house, you can reinforce the language of mathematics by relating it to concrete experiences of quantity, in the kitchen (measuring for a recipe), in nature (count the leaves on a branch, petals on a flower), pages on a book, etc. It brings another perspective to everyday experiences: it is red, it is soft, and there are 37!

The language of mathematics reinforces the "habits of mind": observation, analysis, organization, classification, finding patterns and relationships, identifying structures, interpreting, predicting, modeling, justifying, explaining, problem solving, making decisions, innovate, create.

Like all languages, it is a tool of the imagination and creativity.



Exploring fractions



Pairing the smelling jars



Two letters together can make a new sound ... SH ... don't tell anyone!



First we prepared our decimal system number symbols. Then, Miss Mardie brought a big quantity, 9,639!. Miss Mardie is very generous and she shared ALL her beads with us, in EQUAL parts and starting with the BIGGEST quantity, the thousands. Each of us got 3,213. And THAT is called DIVISION.