



“The human being is a united whole, but this unity has to be built up and formed by active experiences in the real world, to which it is led by the laws of nature.”

“Then, one day, one of these tiny spirits will awaken, the inner ‘self’ of some child will go out to an object which it will temporarily possess, his attention will focus on the repetition of an exercise, the doing of which brings increased skill, and the child’s radiant and contented manner will show that his spirit has been reborn.”

M.Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*



The number rods are the beginning of the path towards abstraction through the symbolic system of numbers. We associate the physical impression of quantity with the symbols we use to represent it.

Summer is officially here! We enjoyed watering the plants at Squirrel Garden, identifying flowers and vegetables, digging and finding worms, and spraying water to cool down our bodies.

At this time of the year the children are working with purpose and concentration in Violeta. Concentration is an indication that the child is following her natural path of development, that her developmental needs are being met and her whole being is involved in a balanced way. When this happens, the child is joyful, and peaceful. Her body, mind and spirit are integrated, in harmony, her being is centered.

The Practical Life and Sensorial areas of our curriculum help the child to reach this stage of concentrated work. As he progresses in the path towards abstraction, he will need concentration to exert his intellectual abilities to analyze, relate, conceptualize, represent and communicate. The path towards abstraction starts with language, a symbolic system where we use sounds to represent real things and letters to represent sounds. This is an innate ability that is gradually made conscious not just through writing and reading words but through other symbolic systems as well, like math, music, geometry, graphic arts, etc. Once this has become conscious, the child has the tools to create and express her/himself.



I am exploring the shapes of the sides of the geometric solids, a cube has six squares but a rectangular prism has only two!



... and Alvar's birthday finally arrived!



Returning an insect to its outside habitat



Our new planters bring beauty to our school and our community. We planted these red tulips in November!

## Looking Ahead

**May 22, Mon. 6-7:30. Violeta Parent Evening**  
**May 29, Mon. No School, Memorial Day**

5/22 Snack, laundry, flowers: Finn



Enjoying the garden: watering, digging and finding worms!



Playing the game of numbers: I get a secret number inside an envelope, I read it and remember it and look for as many objects as the number says, so others can discover the number I got!