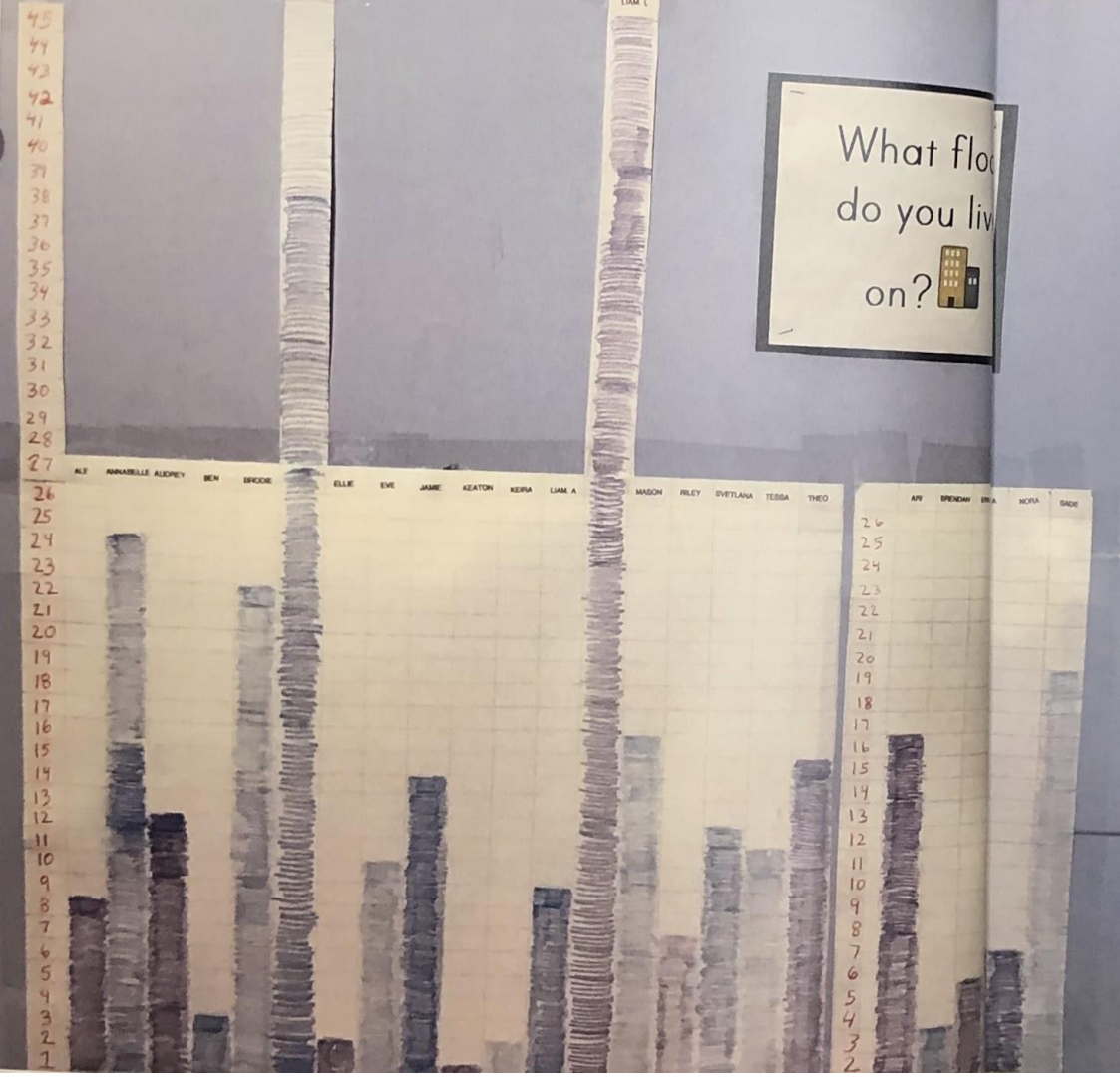


OUR CURRICULUM IS CONSIDERED "EMERGENT" AND CENTERS ON IDEAS AND TOPICS, WHICH ARE DERIVED DIRECTLY FROM THE CHILDREN'S INTERESTS AND PASSIONS. THESE IDEAS AND TOPICS ARE THEN EXPLORED THROUGH IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATIONS, OR "PROJECTS." PROJECTS INVOLVE HANDS-ON INVESTIGATIONS WHICH INCORPORATE RESEARCH, FIELD TRIPS, WORKING WITH A VARIETY OF MEDIUMS AND SEEKING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TEACHING CERTAIN ESSENTIAL CORE DEVELOPMENTAL SKILLS EACH YEAR, OUR CURRICULUM IS NEVER PRE-PLANNED AND CHANGES FROM YEAR TO YEAR. THIS APPROACH ENCOURAGES OUR TEACHERS TO OBSERVE AND TO LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO INTEGRATE THEIR IDEAS INTO THE CURRICULUM. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF JUST THAT!



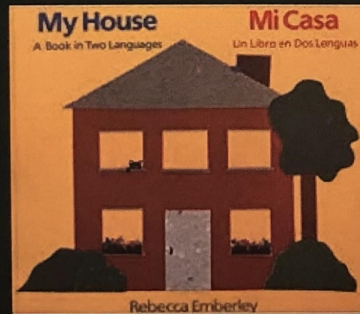
CEDS - The Blue Room
Where We Live - Spring 2019



A NOTE FROM The Blue Room Teachers...

One day a friend mentioned that they lived on the 64th floor! This started an animated discussion amongst the Blue Roomers. So that everyone could see, we graphed what floor each Blue Roomer lives on. The children found their name and floor number on the graph. Our graph showed us that some children live "near the ground" while other children "live way up high in the clouds"! Did you know that some children only take an elevator to get to their apartment, some children only take the stairs, while some children need to take both?

After reading "My House" by Rebecca Emberley, we sent the Blue Roomers on a Scavenger Hunt in their homes. We learned that everyone has windows, a toilet (some have two!), a bathtub, a refrigerator, a bed, blankets, pillows, a table, and a sofa. We also learned that not everyone has plants, a crib, or an elevator. We compiled all the scavenger hunt forms together to create a class book. This way, the children can see what their home has in common with that of their friend's.



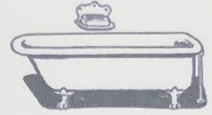
WHAT IS IN MY HOME?



Windows



Toilet



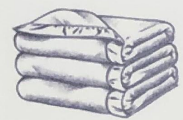
Bathtub



Refrigerator



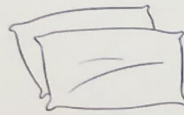
Bed



Blankets



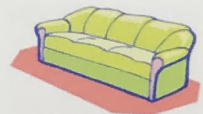
Crib



Pillows



Plants



Sofa



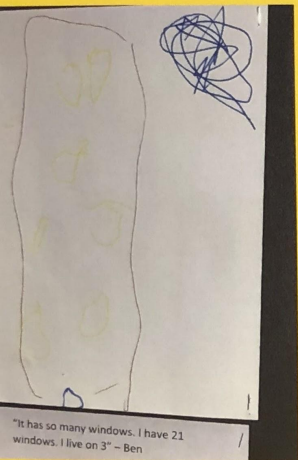
Stairs



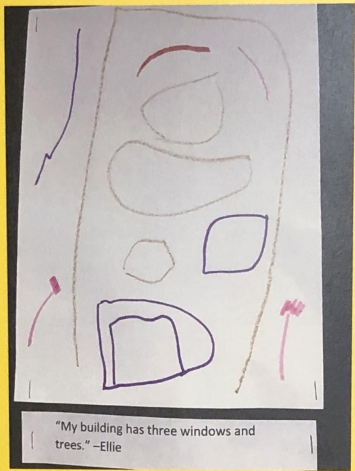
Table



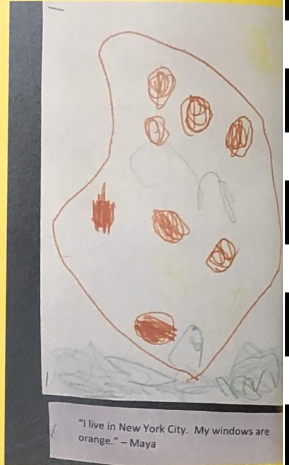
Elevator



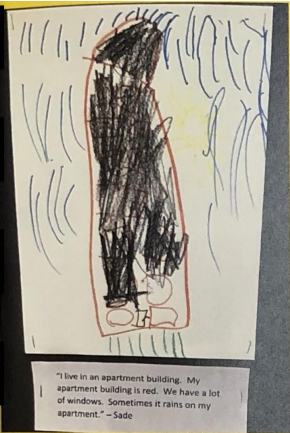
"It has so many windows. I have 21 windows. I live on 3" - Ben



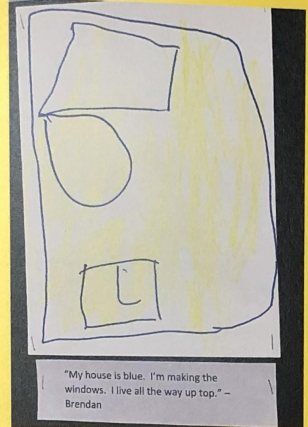
"My building has three windows and trees." -Ellie



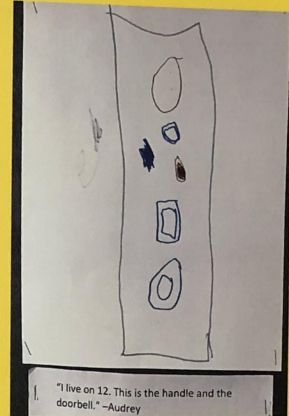
"I live in New York City. My windows are orange." - Maya



"I live in an apartment building. My apartment building is red. We have a lot of windows. Sometimes it rains on my apartment." - Sade



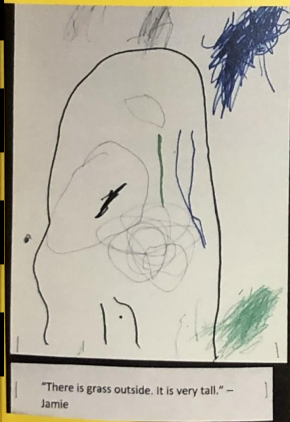
"My house is blue. I'm making the windows. I live all the way up top." - Brendan



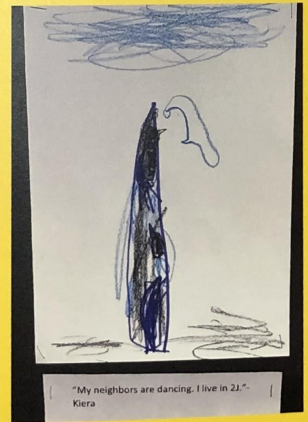
"I live on 12. This is the handle and the doorbell." -Audrey



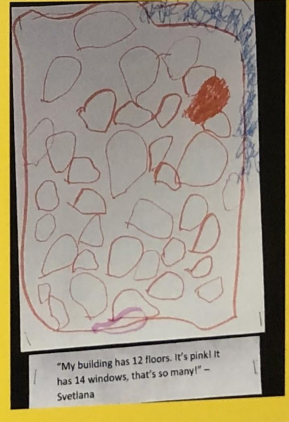
In addition to sharing the floor we live on, how we get up to our apartment, and what is in our home we also talked about what the outside of our building looks like! Each Blue Roomer had the opportunity to draw their apartment building. They took great care in adding windows, doors (complete with handles!), a roof, grass, rain, and even a CVS (what they see when looking out their window!). We are talking about how our apartments are similar and how they are different.



"There is grass outside. It is very tall." - Jamie

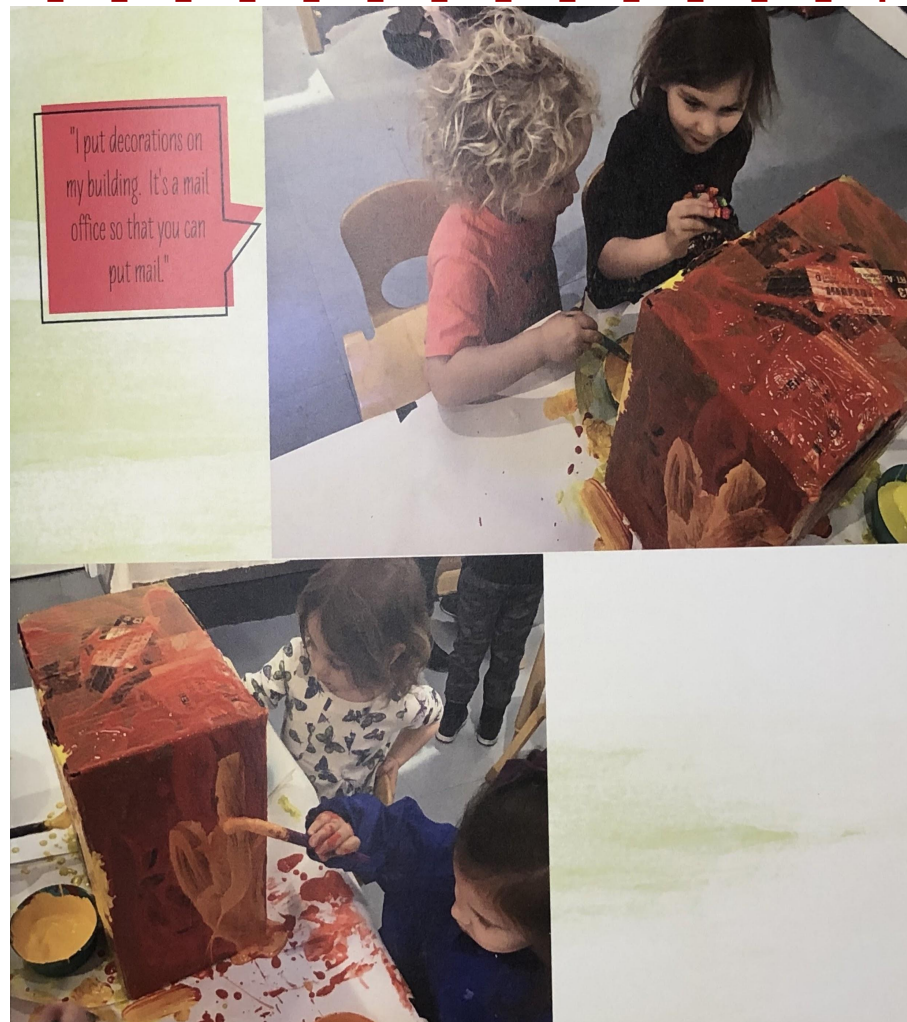


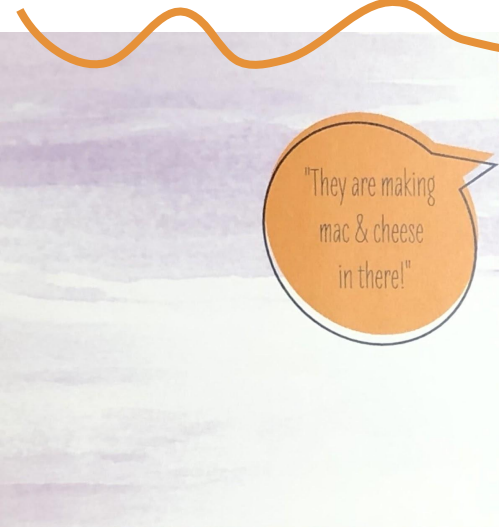
"My neighbors are dancing. I live in 21." - Kiera

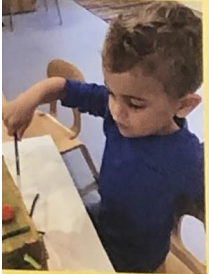


"My building has 12 floors. It's pink! It has 14 windows, that's so many!" - Svetlana

To further our "Where Do We Live" project, the children created an entire city of homes! Using an assortment of recycled and collage materials the children constructed eight separate buildings. As the children were working together, they decided on what color paint to use and where to add the windows and doors. We took multiple trips to the Art Room to collect an assortment of materials that the children could use as the "bricks" of the building, windows, doors, and decoration.







"I'm decorating this building because it needs to be decorated."



"I'm turning this into a tower because I love looking at towers and tall buildings in the city."



"I decorated it so it looks beautiful!"

"This building is beautiful because I put beautiful things on it. Buildings need roofs or it will rain on your head."



"I made a straight line to help the people look at the beautiful building."



"Brendan is going to bring sand from the beach into the building. We need to vacuum to get the sand out."



"The star is going to play with his friends in the building."



"Now the building is beautiful!"



"This is my building. I live at number 64 on 16 in the elevator."



With the final addition of the streets and avenues our community is complete! All the Blue Roomers in 3B believe that it should be called, Maya Land. Our friends in 3A created their very own version of New York City!

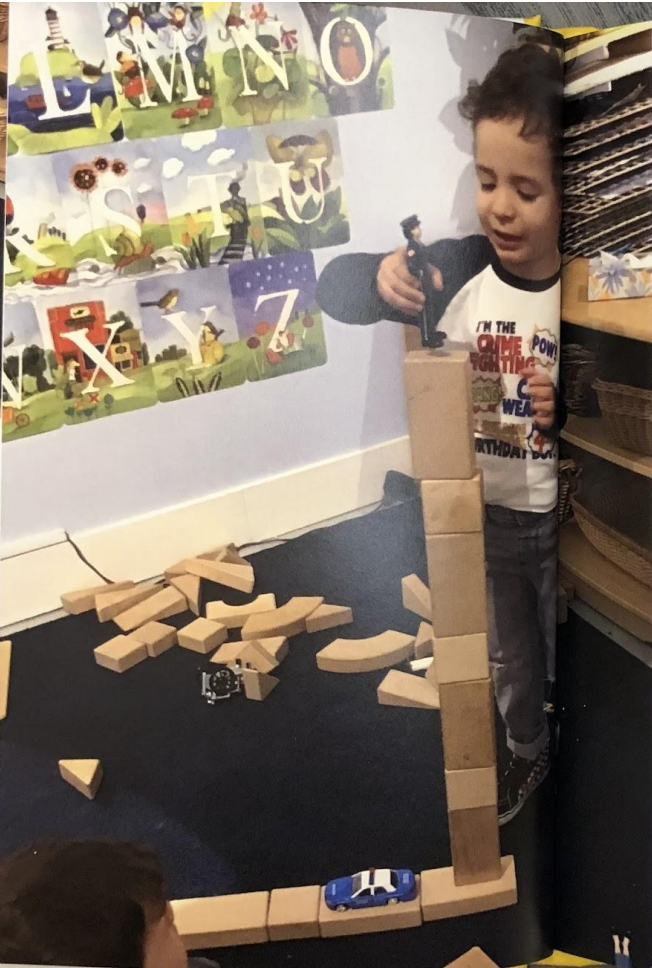


Our city which simply began with one cardboard box and some red paint is now a busy metropolis complete with buses, cars, people, and lots of animals!





"It's an igloo.
It's cold
inside."



"This is a tower. A
police officer is way
up high because she's
keeping people safe."

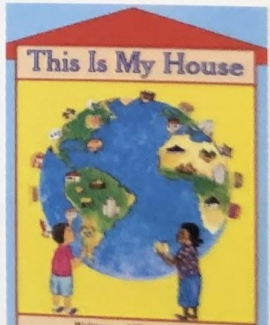


"A rainbow house
with LOTS of
piggies!"



"A tree house
for me and my
brother Toby!"

Over the last few weeks we have been exploring our own homes. This week we are exploring the different types of homes found around the world! After reading, "This Is My House" by Arthur Dorros the children were inspired to recreate some of them in our block area!





Svetlana, Keaton, and Keira are trying to agree on what their structure should be. At one point it was a cargo ship. With the addition of all the cars it transformed into a garage. Finally, as it grew taller and taller it became a tower!



Sade, Maya, and Nora built a big house with people and animals, in London! They then built a police station nearby so they could ask the policeman which train they would need to get back to New York City!



Mason and Caleb built a loading place and the people are standing there waiting.

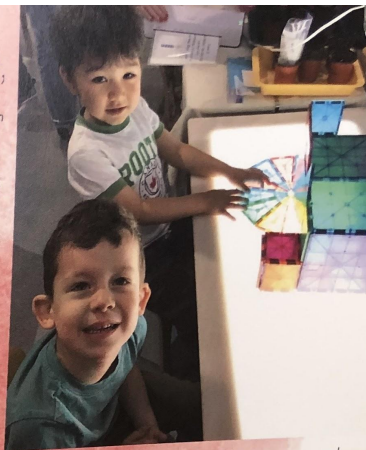


"A walk-way so we can just walk around Maya Land. Come on, you can walk with us too!"



Jamie built NYC using Bristle Blocks, "Look it's rainbow. Isn't it SO pretty?"

Ellie made a house, "There is a room for Mommy and Daddy, a room for me and for Pippa. It has a kitchen and a bathroom. It has many floors!"



Mason and Brodie's house, complete with a snail trap for "lots of snails!"





"It's a rocket ship house!"



C L A Y



"It's a castle. The shells are the windows. Castles have lots of windows!"

"It's me and my family in my house!"





What other types of homes can we build? Perhaps, a water building for the ocean animals, a head building made of a giant head, a monorail building, or a dinosaur building! In the end we decided on making houses for all the animals to live in. And so, we begin again...