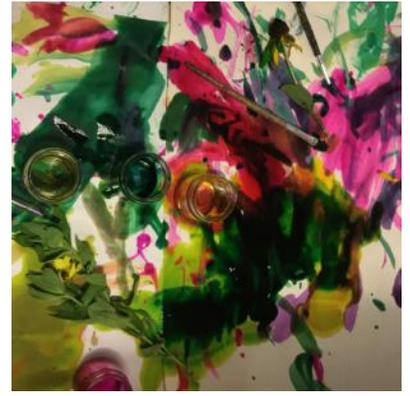


# AUGUST NEWS FROM THE ATELIER



One of our focuses for this year is the concept of identity. We believe that children learn about themselves and construct their own identity within the context of their families and communities. Identity is fluid and always evolving. We honor the ways children build and shape their identity through their evolving experiences and relationships which include change and transitions. When children have positive experiences, they develop an understanding of themselves as significant and respected, and feel a sense of belonging. This is one of the many reasons our time of Inserimento is so important.

Relationships are the foundations for the construction of identity- 'who I am', 'how I belong' and 'what is my influence?' In family and community settings children develop a sense of belonging when they feel accepted, create attachments and trust those that care for them. As children cultivate their sense of identity, they explore different aspects of it (physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive), through their play and their relationships.



We focus on children in the here and now, and of the importance of children's right to be listened to and understood. As I think about this concept of identity, I know how important it is to offer children multiple ways to express themselves. The Atelier holds many materials and is a place that has spaces to be alone or together when working. These first few weeks the children are exploring the Atelier and finding ways to make it their own. It is meant to be shaped with its own identity that reflects the present community. One of the offerings in this space is watercolor paint. The children have discovered the expressiveness of this medium.

Sharing a space,  
Manipulating paint.  
Leaving our traces.  
Memories on the paper.  
Making designs and  
patterns. Mixing colors.  
These are a few of the  
ways children have  
embraced the paint  
and paper. The painted  
paper is left as an  
evolving piece for  
children to return to  
and investigate on a  
daily basis. It is a  
process. It's the journey,  
not the destination. No  
rules, nor rights and  
wrongs, just a quest to  
reach the purity of imperfection  
and human expression. We  
leave the paper intact with new  
identities every day. The  
children have connected with  
each other and the materials in  
this experience. It adds to their  
knowledge of what they are  
capable of.  
Wishing you well,  
Belinda

