Our “Light and Color” unit focused on explorations including color, paint mixing, light sources, traveling light, light refraction, shadows, light mixing and lenses.

We started our “Light and Color” unit by exploring colors. We shared and charted our favorite colors. We also mixed paint, identifying the primary colors and mixing them to create secondary ones. We even experimented with adding white to a color to make a tint and adding black to a color to create a shade.

We then brainstormed light sources and discussed how light travels in a straight line. We used prisms to refract the light and break it apart into rainbows. Using different light sources, we set up a shadow screen to create shadows. We noticed how shadows grew larger when we held them close to the light source and shrank when we moved them farther away from it.

We also had an opportunity to interact with an art experience called the White Light Unit. Using it we could visually see how combining light colors created white light. We danced in front of the projectors as the light colors changed, creating beautiful shadows and shapes. We took turns performing and being the audience. We danced to light and color songs including, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”, and the “Rainbow Connection”. We were also able to compare how mixing light colors and paint (pigment) colors yielded different results. When we mixed all the paint colors we got a blackish brown paint. When we mixed all the light colors we got white light.

We divided the friends into groups of six and for experiencing our “Black Light Lab”. Zen’s dad gave us ultra-violet lights and fluorescent materials so we could paint and make collages in the dark. We discussed how ultra-violet light is light we can’t see, but certain things react to the ultra-violet light (fluorescent) and glow when the ultra-violet light is turned on.
Light and Color Books

We read many fiction and non-fiction books throughout our Light and Color unit. The Mixed Up Chameleon by Eric Carle, Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni, Living With Light by Nicola Baxter, and Harold and Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson were class favorites. We also enjoyed exploring books from a series that focuses one book on each color. After reading the books during circle time, friends frequently requested additional readings in small groups.
Discovery Area

The Discovery Area was full of sensory and hands-on activities enabling us to learn more about light and color and use our senses to explore the world.

We mixed food coloring in shaving cream at the water table and in goop (cornstarch and water) at one of the round tables. We painted at the easels, using and mixing together primary colors. We also painted with rollers that had flashlights attached to them, hammered golf tees into styrofoam, sculpted with clay, did spin art, and painted with sparkly paint.

At the sand table, we played with tubes and sent marbles rolling through them. We also used shovels, buckets, mills, and sifters. At the water table, we added reflective objects, including pennies, aluminum foil, spoons and containers. We also washed chairs and poured water into various-sized containers. Working at the light table, we built with magnetic shapes, created patterns and sorted translucent shapes, and built with translucent legos.

When spring arrived, we also explored bird nests and created our own using cotton, string, and shredded paper.

Playground & Gym

On the playground, we continued to ride bikes, participate in imaginative play in the house and castle, slide down slides and hang on bars. Sand play continued to be a favorite and, as the weather was warmer (some of the time), we dug and played in the mud. We also observed the tulips growing and beginning to flower.

In gym we learned soccer skills, including dribbling and stopping the ball. Some of us also started learning T-Ball and square dancing.

Red and Blue Rooms

The Red and Blue Rooms had lots of new activities available for the Light and Color unit. We mixed play dough colors and created sculptures. We drew pictures using skinny markers and pencils. We painted with bright liquid water colors. Some of us practiced writing our names. We used mirrors to examine our reflections and draw ourselves.

We used many colored building materials, including legos, colored wooden blocks, Wedgits, bristle blocks and small pipes. We introduced some small animals for imaginative play in the block areas. We did puzzles and also explored with prisms, flashlights, and lenses. Friends danced under a mirror ball, read books and created colorful marble runs.
Thanks to our many visitors!!

This month we were lucky enough to have lots of visitors join us. For birthday celebrations, Alex’s mom, Giovanni’s mom, Dillon’s mom and dad, Neve’s mom, and Zen’s mom spent part of the morning with us. Marissa (one of our work study students who studies opera) brought classmates and did a performance for the preschool.

In the afternoon, Madeleine, a Green Room friend, shared her birthday celebration and bird friends from the Pittsburgh Aviary visited. Kiana’s grandmother also came to play piano for the friends. They listened to the beautiful music and danced. Jung-won’s mom came to be with the class as he said good-bye. He is moving back to Korea. We will miss you, Jung-won!