In the month of April, we geared up for the How Things Work unit by learning about simple machines. We used a few informational books to build a foundation for our explorations and then we relied on real life models and hands-on discovery. Some of the books that helped guide our exploration were “Simple Machines” by Melvin Berger, “Wheels” by Susan Canizares, “Go Dog Go” by P.D. Eastman, “Rosie’s Walk” by Pat Hutchins and “Old MacDonald had a Workshop” by Lisa Shulman.

We used simple machines throughout the theme to make the learning come alive. We lifted different things using pulleys, we made art using wheels and gears, we played with inclined planes and ramps, we painted houses and tools, and we launched various items across the Red and Blue Rooms using catapults.

Friends had a wonderful time using tools like hammers, screwdrivers and drills in the woodworking area and also pretending to be mechanics and construction workers in the dramatic play center. We assembled pieces of plastic and cardboard and worked hard to repair broken wheels, pedals and handlebars on one of the tricycles from the playground.

Here are some Blue Room friends experimenting with simple machines. Charlie demonstrates how to use a pulley and Lola builds ramps for her truck.

Eric getting familiar with different types of tools.

Lorelei sending vehicles down an inclined plane.

Natalie using wheels and gears to create spin art.
HOW WE WORK... THROUGH PLAYING AT THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL.

(STARTING WITH TOP-LEFT AND MOVING CLOCKWISE...)

- NATALIE PLAYING THE PIANO WITH SIMONE.
- CHARLIE HAMMERING SHAPES INTO PLACE.
- LORELEI USING A PULLEY SYSTEM TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO THE BLUE ROOM.
- LOLA AND TAYSHAWN ENJOYING VEHICLE PAINTING AND EACH OTHER’S COMPANY.
- ERIC BUILDING WITH MAGNET BLOCKS.
LOOK AT THE WAYS WE’RE GROWING!

It was so nice having Ms. Drash and Mrs. Rosenblum read stories to the Red and Blue Room friends. As we say thank you to them, we also want to remember all of the family members who read stories, celebrated birthdays, and planned crafts and activities for us. The year wouldn’t have been the same without you!

Mrs. Tomer  Miss Stevens  Mr. Salinetro

Thank you to everyone who made this year special!