



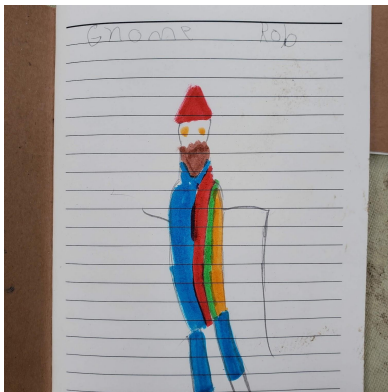
We have spent April watching spring emerge, with exciting new discoveries each week. Exploration near our stream has led to new challenges and play opportunities that have been eagerly embraced by our up-for-anything students!



We have continued to do woodworking - and have noticed the pride that the children show whenever they use real tools. On one day we used saws, hand drills, and sandpaper to make vases and other creations, and the children added designs with markers to make the project their own.



We continued to follow this interest in woodworking by whittling gnomes, and then we read fairy stories and made gnome homes in hollow trees. At the end of the day a new game was invented - gnome soccer!

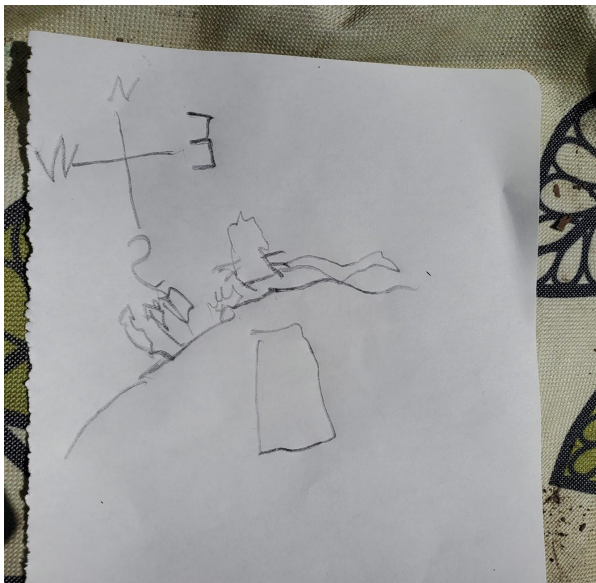


Free play this month has been especially muddy and messy. Our group this session is often so involved in their exploration and play that we sometimes feel like we are interrupting them with our planned activities! They found their way through lots of spring mud, worked as a team to build a bridge to cross the stream, made fishing rods, planted seeds in a forest garden, took care of a worm, made a hammock, and created with clay at Clay Mountain.





Our preschool teacher Rosemary joined us for one adventure-filled morning in which we followed a stream on our way to the Back Forest. We used a compass on our walk to help us navigate while the children raced galls down the stream, pulled apart and examined cattails up close, got stuck in the mud, and even tumbled into the water a few times. In the Back Forest we made pirate treasure and took turns hiding it in a treasure chest, making maps to help others find the treasure. We also began working on a very large map of the entire forest school!



This has been an exciting month for nature discoveries, with our students noticing and questioning throughout our days. We found a nest in the dogwood that we think was made by a redwing blackbird, and we used our identification guide to learn about plants left in the field from last summer - milkweed, dock, and evening primrose. We noticed the coltsfoot growing at our Meeting Place, and how it seems to open up in the afternoon. Many salamanders and one small garter snake were found curled up under rocks, and a firefly larva was found on a tree. We also listened as the children discussed - are those red things growing on the tree berries or tree buds?



The books we shared this month were some favourite stories and poems meant to inspire a sense of wonder and magic.



Thank you for an amazing April! We are looking forward to continuing our adventures together in May.

- Katrina and Angelica



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<https://www.wildpathschool.com/summer-camp-2022>