

Reflection letter for August

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The kindergarten year is well underway already, and we have managed to get to know several new children who have started at Balder, Adrian, Lewi, Ellinor, Zacharias and Mila (who started with us at Embla last year). Welcome to all of you 😊

New children and new adults mean that the group of children who came from Embla will have more people to spend time with, and new constellations and friendly relationships will emerge. We have great faith that our Balder gang will be a group that has a lot of fun together and we hope to recreate some of the same "flokk" we had at Embla last year. We think that having some familiar elements from the previous avdeling can be important for creating a sense of security in a new environment. We have brought some of the materials from last year, while at the same time expanding and developing ourselves further. We've changed avdeling so it's natural to think in new ways.



One of the things we've done is to bring in a lot of natural materials that are undefinable. All the materials have their permanent stations, as you can see from the pictures, almost like laboratories.



Our common focus in the framework (prosjektarbeid) this year is:

A T E L I E R K U L T U R and one definition of what studio culture can be is that it can be small "knowledge laboratories". Meeting places and spaces where anything can happen, and which contribute to exploration and open up new ways of thinking about the things we have around us. We see

the children use the environments very quickly when they arrive in the morning, or they come into the room after they have been out or eaten. After the planning days, where we had worked a lot with the physical environment in the avdeling, the children were ecstatic when they entered the rooms. "Wow", "oi" and other spontaneous expressions came from the children. Some children



needed a hand and confirmation that they could explore and play in the environment and with all the exciting materials available. As we did last year at Embla, we have been clear with the children about the framework and rules that apply to the environments and what can be moved around and what belongs at the different stations.

The materials we have chosen are materials that we know are changing or have the potential to be connected to something else. Together with the animals, for example, the children come up with lots of exciting play, they take the animals out for a drive in the car, or a boat trip to Denmark, a fishing trip and much more.



A month goes by quickly, but we have managed to do many exciting things both inside and outside. The children have shown great interest in the station with self-portraits, mirrors, charcoal, easel on a bench, many children have sat down here and drawn whether it is a self-portrait we are not quite sure, but it looks like they greatly enjoy and fascinated by this, and by each other. They use the mirror actively, they study and look back and forth between the mirror and what they are drawing.



We received a squash from a colleague that we divided up, and the children crowded together to see, smell, taste and touch it together. We had brought some spices that the children know from Embla, ginger, turmeric, paprika and parsley. The children worked together with the teachers and seasoned all the slices, smelled the spices, used their thumbs and index fingers together and seasoned. It looked like many of the children had done this before. We were going to fry some slices so everyone could taste them, but they were forgotten and burnt and didn't turn out so well, but our children tasted them anyway. ÆSJ they said.



New this year is that the paint is now more accessible and out in the large room in the department, there are always paint blocks in different colors, brushes and water cups. In this way, the children themselves can choose to express themselves through the paint when they want and it becomes a natural part of the children's many ways of expression in everyday life.



We have two home-made "cameras" in the department, one "regular" and one "polaroid", and what we have observed in the department is that the children often pick up these cameras to "document" their own or others' work/exploration/play, and of course also in their own role play. It is interesting to see how the children pick up on our actions and that they also want to be part of or try out what it is like to be the photographer. Maybe it's also about taking their own pictures of things they find exciting and interesting?



Important dates in September

On September 14th there is a parent meeting from 18-19 (first part together with Frøya).
Registration and invitation coming soon!

Other messages

We need you to label clothes and shoes/boots with the children's names. It is not easy to find shoes and boots and other clothes for the right child when there is no name or someone else's name in the clothes.

As there is paint on display in the department, available to the children throughout the day, it is important for us that the children wear clothes that can get dirty and get paint on them. Basically, the paint should be easy to wash off clothes, but there are some colors that can sit in a little extra.

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