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# **Beginning to Change:**

## **Reggio-Inspired Change in a Public School Early Childhood Center, Preschool through First Grade**

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**Maplewood Richmond Heights School District**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

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Pre-School



Kindergarten



First Grade



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# Maplewood-Richmond Heights Early Childhood Center's Context: A Diverse Population in an Urban Setting

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Prior to Reggio-Inspired Change  
in 2005....

Families in poverty and those falling just above the poverty line had limited access to preschool

Our classrooms were cluttered with vestiges of past initiatives

Teaching was well intended, but not intentional

Activities were more often single events

Environments were not viewed as critical elements of curriculum

Practice was privatized



# Building a Partnership for Change . . . .



**MAPLEWOOD RICHMOND HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Building the Future: Leadership, Scholarship, Citizenship, Stewardship**



**Building Great Partnerships for the Greater Good of Greater St. Louis**



## The Inspiration from Reggio Emilia

“To learn and relearn together is our line of work. We proceed in such a way that the children are not shaped by experience, but are the ones who give shape to it....Our teachers do research either on their own or with colleagues to produce strategies that favor children’s work or can be utilized by them. They go from research into action (and visa versa).”

Loris Malaguzzi

The Hundred Languages of Children, 1998

**Beginning to Change from Well  
Intended Environments to  
Intentional Environments....**

Well intended





# Intentional







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Beginning to Change from  
Privatized Practice to  
Collaborative Practice Based  
on Research....

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Beginning to Change by  
Creating Stronger Connections  
and Collaboration with the  
Community....

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**Beginning to Change by  
Supporting 100 Languages and  
In-depth Study through the Use  
of Studio Spaces....**

A place where languages are explored





# The language of light





# The language of music







The language of dance

# The language of clay

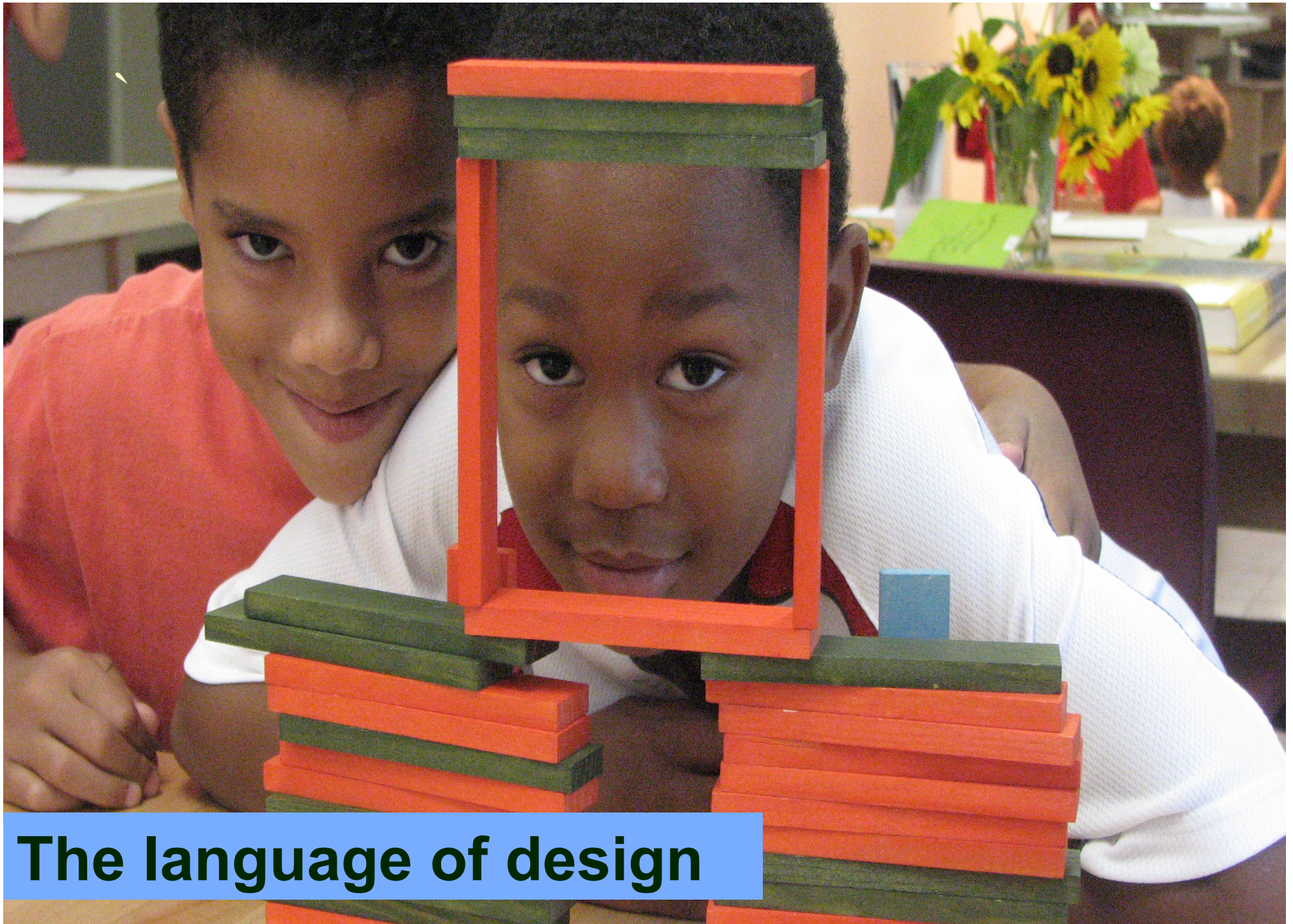






**The language of drama**





**The language of design**



# The language of drawing











# Reflection

# Sunflower Study

















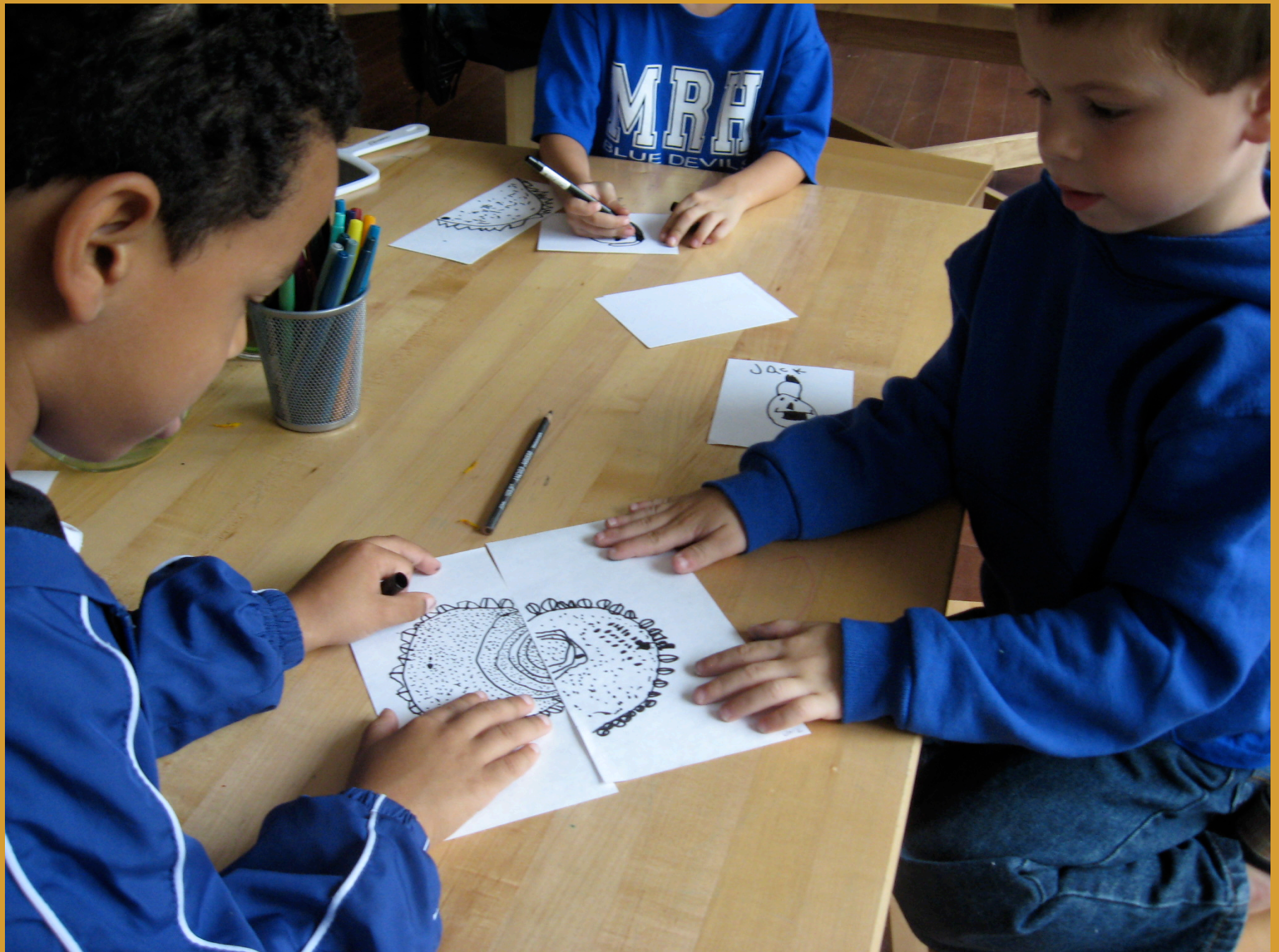




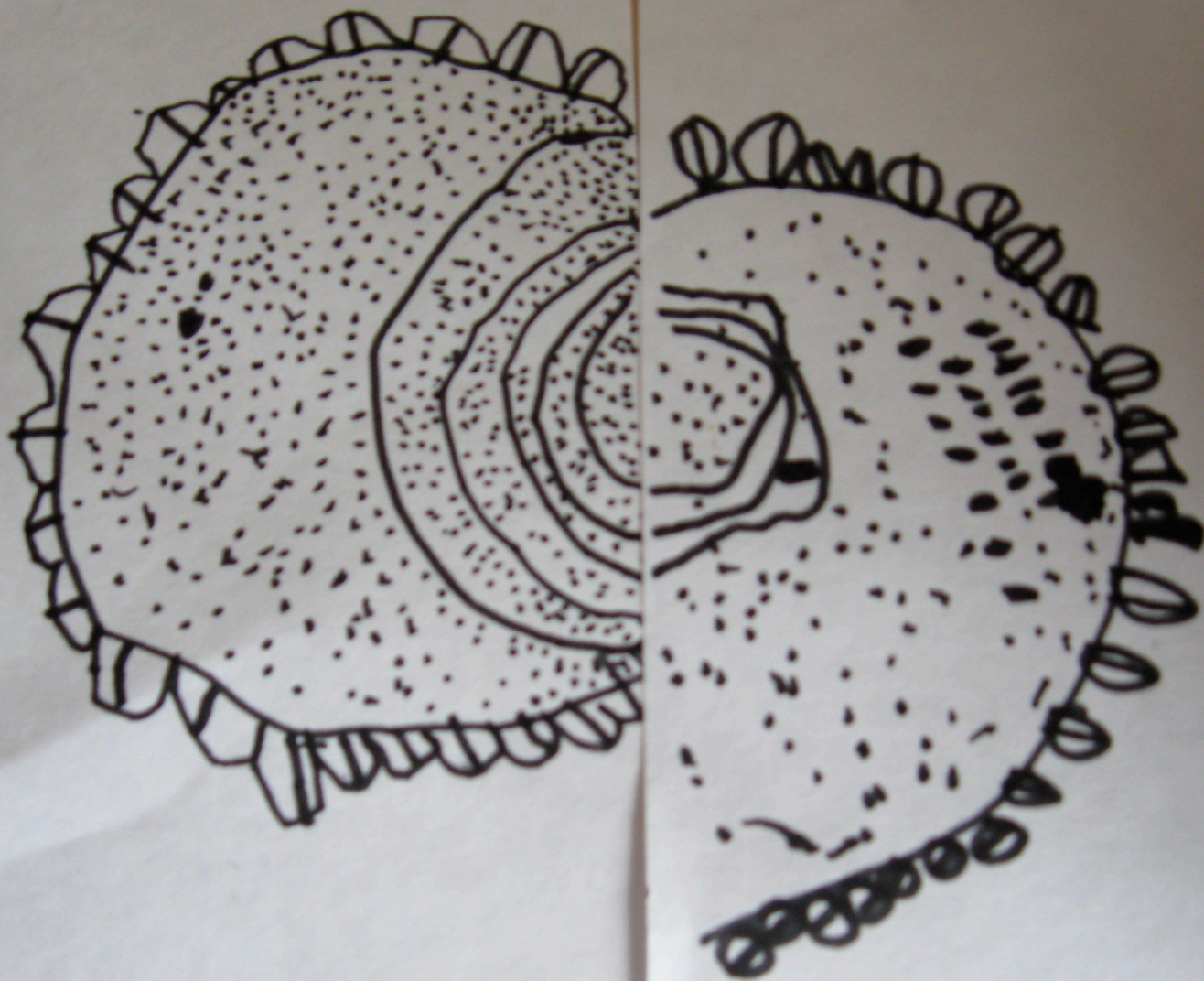






















Sunflower Texture Tiles  
By First Grade Children







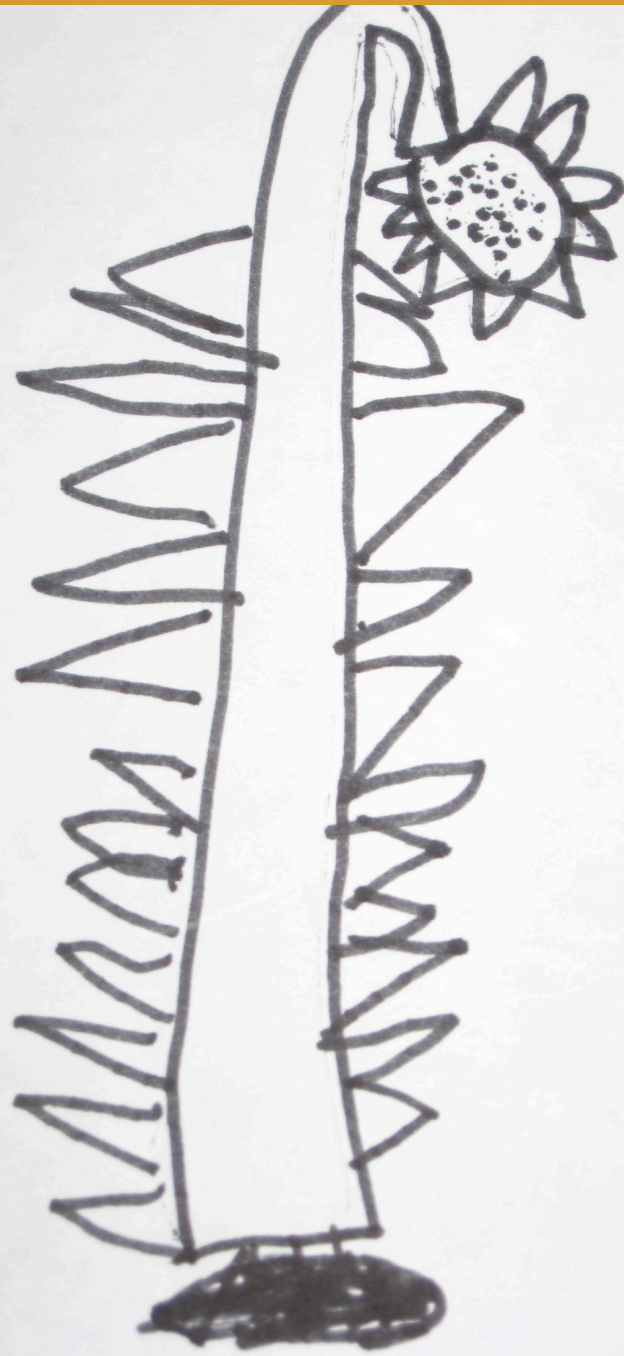












Nico











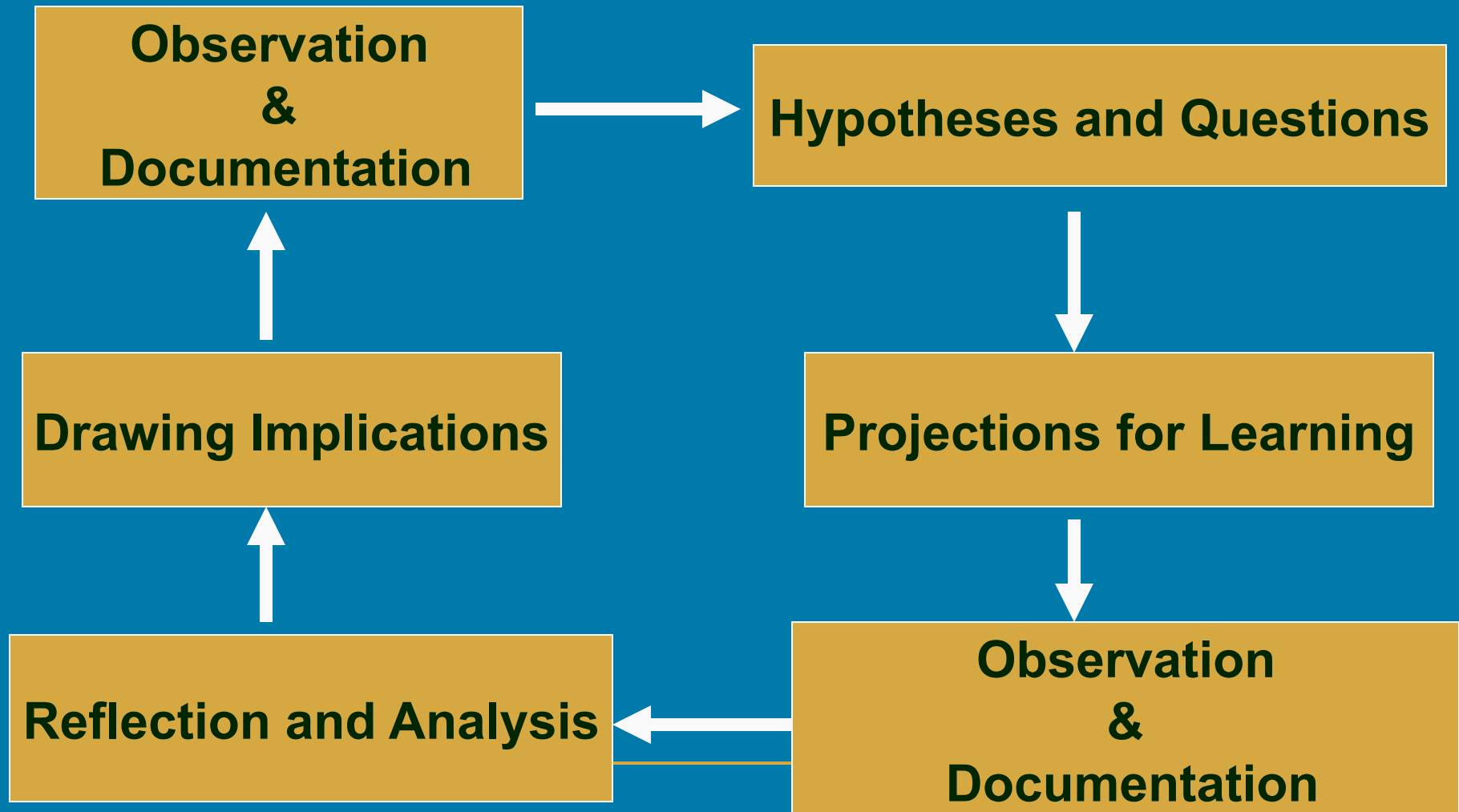








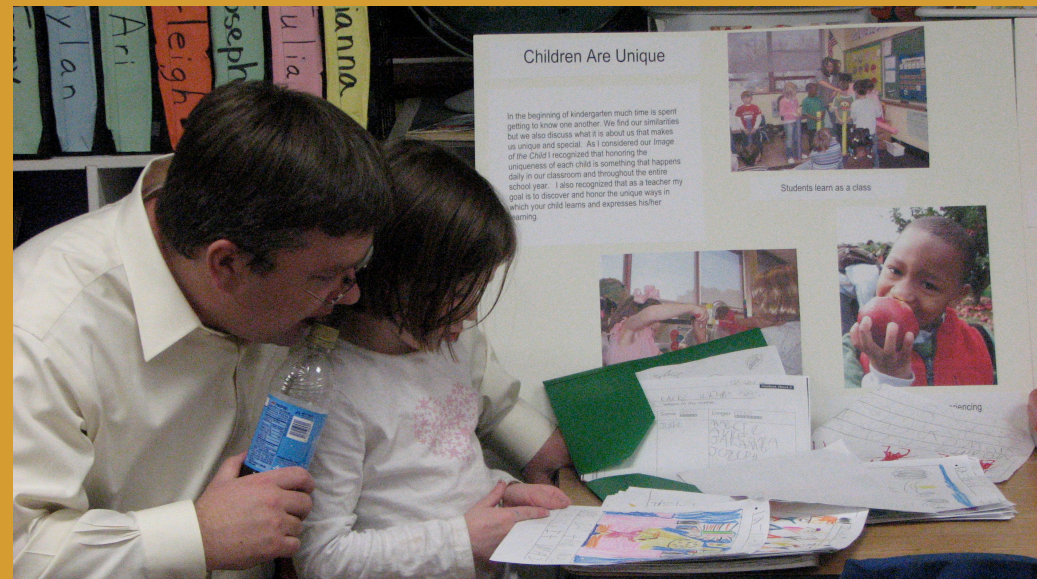
# Action Research Cycle for Teachers, Children, & Families







Researching and  
Reflecting Together  
with Families through  
the Use of Visible  
Documentation





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**The Reggio Approach  
Inspires New Spaces  
for  
Learning and Living  
at  
Maplewood Richmond Heights  
Early Childhood Center  
Fall 2009**

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**“We must all work to make this world worthy of its children.”**  
**Pablo Casals**





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Reggio-Inspired Changes  
Continue at Maplewood Richmond  
Heights Early Childhood Center...  
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