

MARIE'S DAY OUT: A LEARNING STORY

By: Camille Eileen C. Amigle

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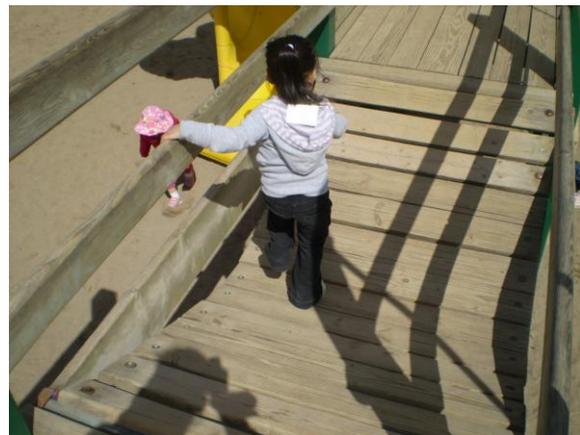
What Happened

I noticed that Marie ran to the playground structure right away and climbed up on a steep ramp by holding onto the chain for support. I watched while she assessed the swaying bridge when she got to the top. She squatted and held onto the railing with her right hand before taking two steps forward. She stopped and faced me, holding on to the railing with both hands. Then she continued to walk forward again with her right hand still on the railing.



I was surprised to see her run to the end of the

bridge when she had about one foot left to cross. She went down the twisting slide then used her right hand to push herself up to stand. It was interesting to me that she ran back to where she started and climbed up the playground structure again. This time, she was faster as she ran across the bridge to the other end without hesitation.



I was curious about her sudden change of interest when she walked to a wagon standing upside-down near the slide. She used both her hands to lift it up and turn it right-side up, then pulled it with her right hand towards a less steep ramp at the other end of the playground



structure. It was interesting to see her let go of the wagon to climb down the structure so she can kneel down, place her hands on the floor, and get to the lower rung of the structure with her left foot. I helped her bring the wagon down to the ground and she ran towards a peer with the wagon in tow.

I noticed that Marie picked up a shovel with her right hand and consequently scooped up sand to pour into the wagon. I watched while she switched the shovel to her left hand and poured



sand into the wagon. My attention was drawn to the way she lifted her arm as high as she could before sending the sand down into the wagon. She continued to fill up her wagon, alternating between scooping up sand with the shovel and patting it in with her free hand. When she was content with the amount of sand in her wagon, I was curious about her next ideas as she got up and pulled the wagon behind her with her right hand. After a few steps, she squatted, took out the

shovel lying on top of the sand, and shook the wagon with both hands. I was surprised to see her get up, pat herself to remove the sand on her clothes, and run towards the lakeshore.



What It Means

Marie, I was excited to see how strong and patient you were today. You used your leg and arm muscles to climb the playground structure and run across the bridge. You seem to have felt scared a little bit by the shaking bridge, but you kept on going. This tells me that you are confident in yourself. You even went back to cross the bridge again! You balanced your body well and used your strong legs to get to the other side without falling. You also pushed yourself up by holding onto the chain so you can reach the top. This tells me that you know about your body and how to navigate it in space.

I was also interested to see where you would take the wagon and what you would do with it. You were so patient filling it up with sand and you seem to have thought about what would

happen differently if you pour it from a higher distance than if you pour it close to the wagon.

You closely observed what was happening and this tells me that you were curious and engaged with your activity.

Opportunities & Possibilities

Next time we would provide new materials that could help Marie develop her physical strengths more. We could have an obstacle course that would challenge her gross motor skills as she jumps off a platform, crawls through a tunnel, or skips between tiles. We could use a narrow beam to test her balance and agility in a different way from the bridge. We could also incorporate the sandbox itself in the course and have some “treasures” for Marie to find through digging. Or we could have wagons and buckets with which Marie could transfer sand from one place to another as part of the obstacle course. We would incorporate other interests and ideas that Marie has through conversations with her and further observations of her play activities.