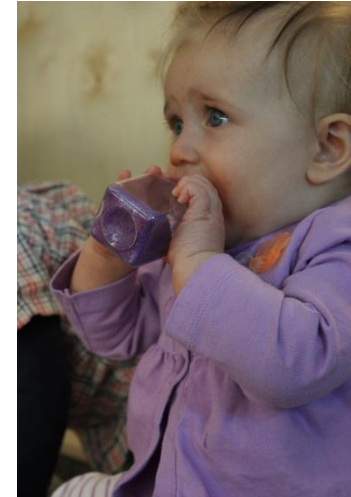


Toddler M. brought the tray of purple bottles to baby H. and baby L. this morning. The three children began to work with the bottles in very different ways. L. and H. used them for sensory exploration – shaking and mouthing them. M. worked with the bottles as a material for construction, stacking them vertically.



Wednesday October 10th

open-ended

:not rigorously fixed: as

a : adaptable to the developing needs of a situation

b : permitting or designed to permit spontaneous and unguided responses



The value of open-ended materials is made clear in the context of mixed age group classrooms like ours. Manufactured toys often demand a single use as the “right” way to play. Re-use and natural materials engage children at any age or developmental level, inviting them to unlock endless possibilities for learning.