



Journals

Journals are the actual artifacts that children, families and educators produce as they work which can include drawings, diagrams, photographs, video, transcribed conversations and traces of creative and constructive processes. When studied chronologically and in all their qualitative detail, our journals present a unique path of progress for each child. At the beginning of a new school year, new families will be asked to take the binders home to personalize their child's journal.

Families are invited to add photographs, stories, drawings and traces of meaningful experiences. Journals are used as a tool to create a communication bridge between home and school. Children enjoy looking at photos of their families and showing them to their friends and educators. Educators keep the journals updated as the year goes by. Parents will take the journals home every month together with the monthly classroom letter. These support conversations among the families.

Children's journals are updated through their time at GPCP. The journals will follow children from class to class and they are intended to be an archive that reflects their whole preschool experience.

Why do we value journals? They:

- Make families aware of children's learning experiences
- Facilitate dialogue between families and children about their investigations
- Communicate to children that their work is valued
- Become a tool for children to revisit and build upon their explorations, relationships, wonderings, emotional experiences, theories, and discoveries
- Become a re-launching tool for educators to provoke children to explore their questions and experiences further
- Embody developing competencies and self-confidence
- Promote a sense of autonomy
- Facilitate communication and exchange among educators
- Create an archive that traces the history of the school and the pleasure and process of our experience
- Become a tool for re-considering ideas and plans; a lens for critical thinking