Hello Everyone,

We have been discussing and acting upon some big ideas and concepts in our classroom lately -- symmetry and opposites. For some time, the children have been taken with a set of Dr. Seuss opposite cards that we use at group times, consistently asking for and finding great delight in them. We have been building on this interest by making a master list of opposites that they have either been remembered or invented (roll/unroll, good guy/bad guy) by the kids. This list will be translated into a class-made book illustrated with photos. Questions asked: "How could we show up and down? Where should we take the pictures? How will people know what which opposite we are trying to show?" Stay tuned.....

Symmetry was introduced by utilizing a subject that young children are infinitely interested in and find easy to relate to, themselves! After pointing out the obvious, eyes and ears for example, they began shouting out other examples: "Elbows!" "Knees!" "Eyebrows!" The next step was to manipulate a hands-on material, attribute blocks, to allow them to illustrate the concept. Using a length of masking tape as the midline, each child had the opportunity to "make it symmetrical", by placing a block to mirror the color, size and position of its mate on the other side of the line. The next day we extended the activity with an additional step: once a child had done the mirroring, s/he could add a new piece of their own choice. This was then
mirrored by the next child. We have noticed that these concepts are being translated into building in the block area and with other small manipulatives.

A song we have been singing:

'There's a Little Wheel a' Turnin' In My Heart

There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart
There's a little wheel a turning 'in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart

There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart

There's a little song a singin' in my heart
There's a little wheel a singin' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
There's a singin' in my heart

Oh I feel so happy in my heart
Oh I feel so happy in my heart
In my heart, in my heart
Oh I feel so happy in my heart
(repeat first verse)b

We have added our own verses:

There's some fireworks exploding in my heart...
There's a little motorcycle in my heart...
There's a little princess in my heart...

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=TsKWa7TvBbE

Maite & Cathy