

Project Approach to Learning at

**RisingOaks**  
Early Learning

# Lincoln Road



<b>Project Name:</b>	Movement
<b>Age Group:</b>	Infant (11-16 Months)
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	February 07,2022
<b>Project End Date:</b>	May 26, 2022



**RisingOaks**  
Early Learning Ontario

## Background

The infant Educators Celine Burley, Shannon Swanson, Melody Brubacher and Mary Livinus RECE's started the project on February 07, 2022 about movement this project went until May 26, 2022. The children that participated in this project ages ranged from 11-16 months.

## Phase 1: Beginning the Project

This project began as the educators observed the children climbing on the shelves, and the couch, also dancing, spinning and just moving their bodies around the classroom.

### What We Know:

- We can climb chairs and shelves
- We can stand on toys and furniture as we balance on them
- We can balance as we dance.

### What We Want to Know:

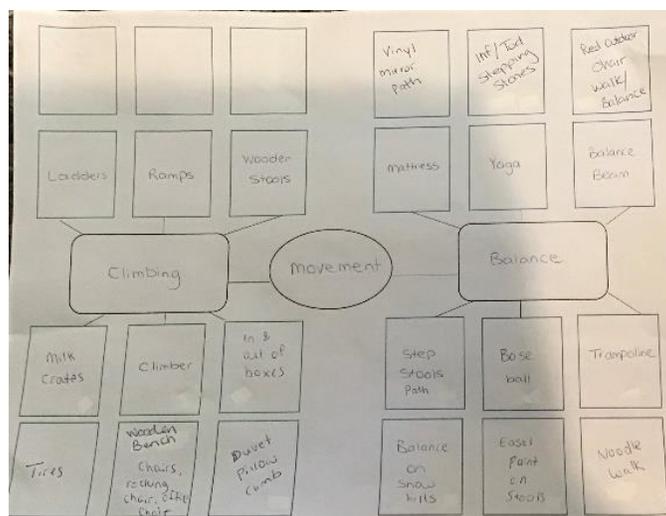
- What else can we climb?
- How high can I climb?
- What surface or slope can I stay balanced on?

### Who We Can Ask:

- Brad Simpson

## Phase 2: Developing the Project

**Vocabulary List:** muscles, balance, ladder, crates, climb, up, down, in, out



### **Milk Crates-February 9, 2022**

To go with the children interest in climbing, Celine brought in milk crates for the children to explore. Frankie was the first to get right into the crate; she lifted one leg and then the other to get inside. Frankie noticed some crates were upside down and started to climb on top.

Brayson came over next and he used his upper body to push the crate around the room. Brayson put toys inside; he would tip the crate on its side and take the toys out. Axel spent a lot of time figuring out how to use the milk crates in many different ways. He climbed in and out of them, carried them all over the room, put toys in and out of them. He even moved a crate to the middle of the room and was able to balance his body as he climbed on top.

Olivia started by putting toys in and out of a crate and then she even climbed on top of it.

Leena pushed and carried around the crates before she started to climb and sit on top of them.

Wesley used the milk crate as a walker as he held on and pushed it around the room. After pushing it around the room, Wesley noticed toys inside, and started to take them out. Wesley found his own toys to place in and out of the crates.

During this activity, the children used their gross motor skills to climb in and out and on top of the crates. The children also used their balance to sit on top of the crates. While the children were placing toys in and out of the crates, they were using the trajectory schema. Who knew so much learning could come from milk crates!



### **Ladder- February 10, 2022**

To go along with our project on movement, Shannon brought in a ladder. The infants started exploring the ladder by walking under it like a tunnel, back and forth.

Celine demonstrated how to climb the ladder and Frankie got excited as she looked up at Celine. Once Celine came down, Frankie ran over. With a little bit of assistance on which leg to use and when to reach to the next step, Frankie got the hang of how to climb up and climbed all the way up to the top metal step. She used her gross motor skills to pull her body up. At the top, she smiled and looked around the room with a new perspective. Olivia started with assistance and to climb up on the first step. She raised her foot to the second step, but then climbed down. Olivia had another turn at climbing the ladder after some other friends and this time she climbed up to the third step and was so proud of herself.

Axel was next and with no assistance, he climbed up, up, up, to the very top. With excitement, he smiled and wiggled his body, while looking at Shannon on the other side. Brayson explored the ladder by crawling under it and touching the steps and pointed up at it. When Celine placed him on the first step holding onto his waist, Brayson shook his head no and Celine took him off.

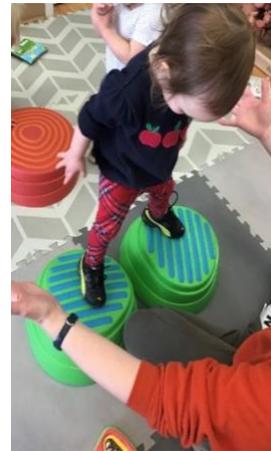
Leena ventured up onto the first step. She looked up, shook her head no, and climbed with assistance back down.

Shannon then tried laying the ladder on the ground. Olivia, Leena, Axel, Frankie and Brayson maneuvered their bodies up and over each step on the ladder working their way across it.

Frankie, Olivia and then Leena brought over toys and placed them into the spaces between the steps. Brayson found some tape on the step that he was sitting by and used his fine motor skills to pull it off. This activity was exciting for the educators as the infant showed us just how capable they are when it comes to their gross motor climbing skills. Way to go!



In continuation of our project, “Movement,” Mary brought in stepping stones to enhance the infants interest. The infants explored the stepping stones in different ways by using their gross motor skills as they climbed, crawled, walked and stood on the stones. Frankie started by feeling one of the stones with her two hands, then sat on the stone before deciding to walk on it after some encouragement from Mary. Axel started by crawling from the first stone to the last one. Mary encouraged Axel to walk on the stones. Axel was so excited that he held Mary’s hand and began to move one foot after the other on the stones. Next, Axel let go of Mary’s hand and stood all by himself on the stone, clapping with excitement for his achievement. Olivia enhanced her balancing skills as she stepped on the stone placing her right hand on the mirror to enable her balance properly on the stone without assistance. Stéphane used his big muscles to lift the stone (transporting it from one point to another) and finally placing a stone on the shelf. He flipped it over and began exploring inside too. Leena also explored the stones in different ways after some scaffolding and encouragement from Shannon, Mary and Melody. Leena used her imagination as she pretended to use one of the stones as a boat. She flipped the stone over, sat in it and began to move her body back and forth while Mary sang, “row row row row your boat.” All the children found creative ways to enhance their large motor skills and confidence while exploring the stepping stones.



### **Snow Hills - February 22, 2022**

Today we explored small snow hills for our project. The infants worked on their balancing skills to go up, over and down three small snow hills.

Olivia started by holding onto both of Shannon's hands and walked over the snow hills. Once at the top and after each hill, Olivia would smile proudly from ear to ear. After the first two snow hills, Olivia gained confidence and walked over the last hill holding only one of Shannon's hands. Olivia then worked on stepping up the hills on her own, with her arms out for extra balance.

Leena was next and was so happily smiling as she held onto two of Shannon's hands and climbed the snow hills. After Leena crawled up the first snow hill and once she made it to the top, Leena sat up, raised up onto her knees and smiled proudly at what she accomplished on her own. Leena came back to walk the snow hills again, but this time she only needed one of Melody's hands to walk over all three.

Frankie liked to watch as she moved her feet and being held by both of Shannon's hands. Once Frankie got to the top of the last snow hills, she looked up and around the playground from a new height.

Shannon helped Walter to stand up and jump up to the top of a snow hill. He looked around for a bit and then wanted down.

Gavin held onto Melody's hands for each hill until he got to the top of the third one. Gavin then looked up proudly at Shannon. What a fun way to combine outside fun with balance.



## February 23, 2022

To explore the children's interest of climbing for our project, Celine brought in different sized boxes. The children all stood watching Celine as she put the boxes together. Once they were placed on the floor Frankie, Olivia, Axel, and Leena all came over to look at the boxes.

Axel started by trying to climb on top of the box. When he got on top of the box it did not hold him fully, which made the box cave in a little. This turned the box into a tunnel. Leena noticed a box laying on its side and crawled inside it. She would peek in and out. Axel went back to figuring out how to climb on top on the boxes.

Frankie started by placing babies in the boxes and pushing the box around the room. She then pushed two boxes together and started to climb inside. Frankie climbed from one box to the other. She was climbing in with her feet first, then going headfirst. Frankie continued to climb and was able to stand on the box all by herself.

Leena noticed the tunnel that Axel made and started to crawl through it. After Leena watched Frankie climbing in, Leena started to climb in. At first, she could not figure out how to get in and walked away. This did not stop her as she came back and tried again. Leena balanced her body. She problem solved out how to rock her body to lift her foot in and get into the box completely. Leena and Frankie used their muscles to carry the box around the room.

Gavin enjoyed playing with the sides on the boxes, as he liked to close and open the flaps. When Gavin had a turn in the box, he continued to play with the sides of the box. Celine helped Wesley into the box. He smiled and walked around it. Celine helped Brayson into the box with Wesley. They sat inside together just looking at each other. The children used their gross motor skills to climb and balance in and on the boxes.



**February 25, 2022**

As part of our project, Melody brought in a stool for the children to stand on as they balanced while painting on an easel. Everyone had a turn to test it out. Wesley started things out; he stood on the stool and liked feeling the paint between his fingers. He touched the paper with the paint but preferred to stick with feeling the paint and dumping the paint out of the containers. Wesley tested his balance when he bounced his body up and down on the stool too. When he was all done, he climbed back down. Stéphane loved standing on the stool and he painted while standing on one foot.

Olivia switched between both hands to paint, as she held a paintbrush in each hand. When she moved her feet, she knew to take small steps on the stool to do so. If she started to lose her balance, she would catch herself to remain steady. When Melody asked if she could paint up high, she reached up and did so. Way to go to keep your balance Olivia. She stood on the stool without holding on to practice balancing too. Walter preferred to keep his balance while standing on Shannon's legs (over the stool) to do his painting. He then stood on his own on the floor to paint. To finish things off, Walter painted Shannon's mask.

Frankie used great balance to do her painting. She alternated her hands to use two paintbrushes. Then she added another one to each hand so she was painting with 4 paintbrushes altogether. Wow. What coordination! Frankie reached higher and higher to paint each time she dipped her brush in a new colour of paint. She liked looking at the paint on the end of the brush too. She also painted one brush with another one. Frankie noticed paint on her toes. She kept her balance as she squatted down to wipe the paint of her toes.

Leena was so excited to paint. She made strokes all over her paper right away. She dipped her brush in every colour before she painted. She got creative when she painted her art smock too. When she got paint on her fingers, she started finger painting her paper. When her body rocked, she caught herself so she could keep painting. Yay Leena! Axel climbed up the stool on his own to paint with his brush. He stood painting but his favourite thing to do was to shake his brush so paint went everywhere. He looked at his artwork on the floor. What fun! Brayson liked stirring his brush in the paint before he painted on the paper. He liked to feel the paint on his fingers. Then Brayson stood on the stool without holding onto anything. Way to go Brayson! This experience fostered the children's creativity, fine motor and large motor skills through lots of fun!



**February 28, 2022**

To go along with our project, Melody brought in some stools for the children to explore again.

Leena was the first to come over. She climbed up the stool and stood on her own with great confidence. Leena liked to feel the textured bumps on the stool and she found a comfortable spot to sit while she played her harmonica.

Stéphane climbed up part way and then decided to sit on it like a chair. He also liked to carry them around. Later, he stood on one by himself.

Frankie transported them all over the place and positioned them on top of each other, inside out and along the shelf.

Walter liked to fill a stool with blocks, dump them back out, put one stool in another and push it along the floor.

Wesley liked to sit on the stools. Yay Wesley! This was a fun way to work on the children's coordination and balance.



### **March 1, 2022 - Bosu ball and Trampoline**

To go along with our movement project on climbing and balance, Shannon did a survey with the infants. First the infants were shown a picture of each item, a Bosu ball and a trampoline, and pointed to which one they preferred. Then one at a time they came to explore the real Bosu ball and trampoline that Shannon had brought in. Shannon then checked off which one they went to explore first.

The infants explored climbing and balancing as they climbed both the trampoline and the Bosu ball. Most started off with assistance and in the end, with practice and determination, were able to balance or bounce on their own. What fun we had balancing, bouncing and discovering our abilities.



### **March 3, 2022**

As part of the project Celine brought out the duvet cover filled with pillows for the children to climb and balance on.

Frankie and Axel were quick to flop their bodies down on top and crawl across. Stéphane came over and lifted the side up to play peekaboo. Then Stéphane walked across while holding onto someone's hand.

Brayson joined in and crawled across the pillows. Brayson then held onto educator's hands to walk across, first with both hands and then with one hand.

Frankie then stood up and used her balance to keep standing as she walked across the pillows.

Leena was hesitant at first but with some hands to hold her steady, she started to explore walking across. After a few times holding a hand, Leena gained confidence to walk up it on her own.

Axel also used his balance as he stood up, and wobbled side to side before he was able to walk across.

Leena enjoyed laying on her back looking up and saying, “hi,” to Celine. She also laid on Celine’s legs and went for a plane ride.

Brayson climbed onto the pillows close to Celine and flopped down for a snuggle. Stéphane came back to explore the pillow mattress by laying on his back and crawling over the pillows.

During this experience, the children used their gross motor skills and muscles to keep their balance as they crawled or walked across the pillow mattress.



### **March 7, 2022**

To go along with our movement project, Shannon brought in a bunch of pool noodles. She started by taping two together, then three and finally all six (as they got wider and wider). The infants explored the noodles in many ways. The infants carried them, tried pulling off the tape, sat and bounced on the noodles, and tried walking on the noodles to keep their balance with assistance.

Axel also discovered that if he sat on them and pulled the ends of the noodles up, when he let go they flick back down creating sound. Axel also tried hard to pull the noodles apart and explored Shannon’s shoe when she took them off to walk on the noodles too. Brayson discovered that his hands fit inside the holes at the ends of the noodles and that he liked to bounce standing up while holding an educator’s hands. Brayson even kept his

balance while walking backwards and standing sideways, like he was surfing. Frankie discovered she could hold her balance as she crawled onto the noodles and stood up on her own. She also held Melody's hand and balanced as she walked backwards on the noodles.

Stéphane felt more comfortable climbing and walking across the six noodles taped together instead of only three. Stéphane liked to walk across them while holding an educator's hand to help with balance.

Wesley did not like the feel of the noodles under his feet, but discovered that he loved to sit and bounce on the noodles. Walter discovered that he preferred to explore the noodles by lifting and flipping them over, trying to pull off the tape or by sitting on them.

Leena started by walking on the noodles with one education's hand, to being able to do it on her own. She remembered stepping on and off (doing the up and down action) from the Bosu ball and showed her ability to do this on the noodles. Leena also sat and pointed to the noodles as Shannon labelled the colours. Leena repeated the word, "blue." Leena also explored holding her balance as she walked forwards and backwards on her own.

What an interesting activity for all, as we discovered just how many noodles taped together the infants need to balance on their own.



**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

To further extend the infants interest on our, "Movement," project, Mary set up the climber for the infants to engage and enhance their gross motor skills through climbing, crawling, standing, bouncing, sliding, jumping, and showing how capable they are at maneuvering on the climber. The infants showed great strength and abilities as they explored the climber in different ways.

Frankie, Leena and Axel were very excited when they saw the climber and wanted to start exploring immediately by taking different angles on the climber. Frankie went on the slide, Axel climbed on the steps while Leena went through the tunnel. The three of

them enhanced their social skills as they engaged in parallel play (playing side by side). Next, Axel decided to climb to the top of the climber. He stood tall smiling and began to bounce before jumping on Mary.

Frankie showed her balancing skills when she began to hop like a bunny on the climber while holding on tight to a stuffed bunny.

Leena wanted to stand and balance on the climber but she seemed skeptical, so Mary held her hands and encouraged her to climb. Then Leena gradually let go off Mary's hands and stood tall on the climber showing off her balancing skills with excitement. Brayson enjoyed crawling through the tunnel and climbing the steps.

Stéphane started by crawling under the tunnel. Next, he climbed the steps, balancing his body on the top of the climber, and then he crawled through to slide down. Stéphane showed his climbing and balancing skills as he stood on the climber smiling, without any help and he bent upside down on the slide.

Gavin was skeptical about going on the slide but was happy playing peekaboo through the tunnel with Mary.

Wesley was unsure at first but with encouragement from Mary, was able to crawl through the tunnel and maneuver his way out of the tunnel. Wesley was excited about his achievement and decided to explore more by climbing the steps and crawling on the slide.

The infants showed strength and how capable they are at exploring the climber while having fun.



### **March 14, 2022**

Today to explore our balance in a new way for our movement project. Shannon placed a row of red toddler chairs against the fence, with the chair backs out. Each Infant explored looking at the parking lot, cars and much more at a new height through the fence, as Shannon labelled what all they could see.

Leena climbed up onto the first chair on her own and stood up. With Shannon's help Leena held onto Shannon's hands to walk across the chair, then jumped off the end with

a proud smile. When Leena came back to walk across the second time, Shannon moved the chairs closer together and Leena side shuffled across all seven chairs on her own and then slowly climbed off the last one. What great balance.

Axel took one step and then stopped to look out through the fence. Once he was done looking, he continued to hold Shannon's one hand and balanced as he walked across the chairs and jump down.

Stéphane climbed up next and just sat in the chair looking through the fence. With encouragement and assistance Stéphane walked across the chairs holding his balance. What a fun way to practice our balance and move along the fence.



### **March 15, 2022**

Today we explored the balance beam to expand our interest on our project, "Movement." Mary brought in some hollow blocks, a plank and set it up as a balance beam for the infants to practice their balancing and movement. Though this activity is a gross motor activity, the infants will also practice using their problem solving skills as they manoeuvre their ways on the beam, they will also use their hand eye coordination in holding on to the beam as they climb or crawl through the balance beam.

Frankie started by placing her hands on the balance beam for balance and then carefully climbed on it before standing up tall to take few steps across the balance beam. She turned around and began to bounce on the beam before deciding it was bunny and birdy's turn to bounce on the beam. Frankie also took apart the beam showing her curiosity to know how the beam was put together.

Walter was hesitant at first but with some encouragement from Shannon, Walter began to explore the balance beam by sitting and balancing on it. He also stretched across to climb so he could reach to hold Shannon, and stood on the balance beam.

Leena explored the beam by walking across, standing straight on the balance beam without help from Mary or Shannon and then decided to practice her balancing skills by jumping from the beam holding onto Shannon's hands.

Axel was really excited exploring the balance beam as he climbed, walked across, bounced, jumped before showing off his dancing skills while maintaining his balance on the beam.

Stéphane climbed on the beam all by himself balancing and crawled across and then Shannon reached out to Stéphane. He held Shannon's hands stood up and gradually let go of Shannon hands as he balanced on the beam.

Gavin explored the balance beam with some help from Shannon. He practiced climbing, crawling, kneeling and walking on the beam with a little help from Shannon.

Wesley enhanced his gross motor skills as he climbed on the balance beam without any help and then crawled across with big smiles.



### **March 29, 2022**

Today Shannon brought in four different balancing apparatuses, a Teeter popper, a Bucket seat, a spinning disc and a rocking seesaw. Daniella, a child from the preschool two room, was very excited to share these balancing toys with the infants. Daniella showed Shannon where they were and demonstrated how each one worked. She then informed Shannon that she thought the infants would like them too. Daniella was right, Brayson, Frankie, Axel, Wesley, and Stéphane explored each balancing apparatus. The

infants used their gross motor and balancing skills to crawl, stand on or in each one, and to rock their bodies on them with and without assistance as the balancing equipment wobbled back and forth, or spun.

Frankie and Stéphane enjoyed playing with each other as they took turns spinning each other on the spinning disc.

Wesley and Stéphane also investigated the suction cups on the Teeter popper as they tried to pull them off and see how they stuck to the floor.

Axel discovered that he could stand and hold the shelf to rock on his own while standing on the rocking seesaw.

Brayson discovered he could spin himself on the spinning disc. So much fun was had exploring our balance in different ways.



### Phase 3: Concluding the Project

To end our project on climbing and balance, we decided to bring in a little bit of all the children's favourite items from our project. Shannon set them up like an obstacle course. There were boxes to crawl through, crates to climb, a Bosu ball to sit on, stools to walk across, boxes to climb on, chairs to walk across and a trampoline to jump on. The

children used their large motor skills to climb, stand on, balance, and bounce on the different objects.

Frankie ran over to the stools and stood up on one. She bent over so she could stretch her foot to the next stool. After Frankie climbed up on a box, she tried out the trampoline too.

Brayson went right to the trampoline to sit on it. Brayson had a go at the stools. First, he squatted on one, Melody encouraged him to stand and he smiled. Frankie joined him and she stood on one. With some more encouragement, Brayson stood up on his own and smiled. Then he walked across them and got back down on his own. He smiled with pride. Frankie followed him and walked across them too. Next, Brayson sat on the bosu ball and giggled as his body moved to keep his balance. Frankie saw the crates and climbed them next. With a bit of hesitation, Frankie slowly stood up (as they are higher up than the stools) and smiled at what she accomplished on her own. Brayson checked out the bosu ball and got into a squat position on it (without falling off). Frankie stood on the trampoline and liked to bounce. Brayson went to the chairs next. He sat on one and learned that he could make it rock back and forth. Then he stood on the chair with excitement. Brayson tested out the boxes. He climbed on one and his body started to sink. He noticed there was a hole in the box and that he was moving, so he climbed to the next box. It started to do the same. He knew his comfort level as he reached out for Melody's help to get off. He decided that jumping on the trampoline was more fun! Wesley came out and went to the crates and then bosu ball as he pushed on it. Brayson saw Wesley there and then had his turn. He stood on the bosu ball all by himself and kept his balance. As he did this, he said, "whooo hoo!" He was so happy! He also used the boxes to crawl through like a tunnel and play peekaboo with Melody through it. When Axel came outside, he started to do the course in order. First, he crawled through the boxes. Then he crawled across the crates. He pushed on the bosu ball and tried to open the boxes.

When Theo came out, he went to the bosu ball. Celine helped him stand on it and then he laid on it.

Walter went to the boxes and collapsed them. Shannon helped him walk along a couple stools and then he went to bang on a box to make noise with Frankie.

Axel squatted on a chair and sat on it. Then he moved on to the trampoline. He bounced himself up and down with a big smile on his face!

Brayson found a toy dinosaur, started to take it along the course and with some verbal cues from Celine, he continued down the line with the dinosaur on the various items. He started out by having it balance on a chair, then walk on the box and go on a stool. Brayson decided to stand on the stool with the dinosaur.

Theo was all about the chairs as he climbed up on them. Shannon assisted him to walk across them and right over to the trampoline for a fun time of bouncing. Theo went back to the chairs and stood up on the chair by himself. Shannon came over to help him if needed. He held her hands and climbed over the chair to get to her lap.

Wesley tested out the chairs and learned that he could make one rock as he moved his body. Brayson stood on the trampoline and started to bounce with a smile. Wesley crawled across it when Brayson was finished. Brayson stood on a stool to hold a box. Then he flipped the stool over, stepped in it and looked at Melody. He tipped his head back as he was laughing so hard.

Theo and Wesley sat on the trampoline and then Theo held his balance as Shannon jumped on the trampoline beside him.

Brayson, Wesley and Axel worked on climbing in and out of the boxes. They all did it in their own way! Axel also felt confident to stand on a chair too.

Gavin was all about pushing the big box around the playground.

Wesley climbed a crate, crawled across it and sat on it.

The children had such a blast balancing on everything today!



## Teacher Reflections

I really enjoyed exploring different activities that assisted the infants to develop their balancing skills. I was surprised by how competent and capable the infants were when it came to climbing up and down the big ladder, bouncing, and balancing on the Bosu ball or trampoline. I watched as the infants used their problem-solving skills and different techniques to walk across the chairs, so they could accomplish this on their own, (side stepping, holding the fence with one or two hands). They even would climb down on their own at the end or hold my hands and jump down from the last chair. For the noddle walk, I learned the infants do not have the skills to step one foot in front of the other and needed to walk with their feet side by side for the extra balance. We started with only two noodles taped together and through the learning in this activity; they discovered that with four noodles taped together the infants could walk across on their own while holding their own balance. This project was so much fun to plan activities for as well as to observe the infants amazing balancing abilities, as we learned new skills and things together.

Shannon Swanson RECE

During this project, I watched the infants showing their interest and capabilities in climbing and balancing. Upon reflecting on the climbing activities, I observed that some of the infants were initially skeptical of climbing; however, through encouragement from the educators with safe risk taking, the infants showed that they are capable and competent as they learned to face their fears and began taking on new climbing challenges during each activity. I really enjoyed watching the children climb, balance and walk on the balance beams with determination.

Mary Livinus RECE

This project was so much fun. It was amazing to see how far the children came in their abilities to climb and balance between the beginning of the project and by the end of it. When reintroducing the activities for our final event, we were able to see those differences. The children often used the materials in a creative way, which was neat to see. There were some things like the climbing apparatuses that the children did more with than I expected. I loved to see the pride the children felt when they did things like climbing the ladder and balancing on the bosu ball. They even turned some activities into a climbing activity that was not originally thought of in that way. The infants are amazing!

Melody Brubacher RECE

This project was a great experience for myself as well as the children. Watching the children's abilities to climb during the duration of this project was amazing. The children sometimes would take the activities planned and manipulate it in their own way. One time the children even created their own part of this project as they noticed the carpet rolled on the floor and started to climb it. It was amazing to see the children's faces, as they would successfully climb! The infants sure are amazing!

Celine Burley RECE