



The last days of summer are quickly coming to an end, as I sit in dappled sunlight beneath the peach tree in my back yard, enjoying the last sticky sweet, slice of watermelon and contemplating the beginning of a new school year. Being a teacher and a mom is a brilliant combination. I get to spend my summers enjoying my sons (who are now far too old to find that as cool as I do) and year after year they remind me how to playfully participate in the cacophony of summer. When summer is over I get to return to the best job in the world, where your children will provide the same ongoing reminders. As a consummate adult, it's easy to get busy worrying over bills, dirty clothes and political soundbites and forget how to *play*. And when I/we do, children are happy to lend a hand and remind us how FUN the little things can be: suds in the sink, ladybugs on a leaf, a sprinkler splashing mud and water on new clothes. *So what IS this natural human inclination toward frolic? How DO children engage life through their senses and play, while adults sign up for pricey mindfulness retreats trying to recapture their former sense of wonder?*

In our defense, we certainly weren't conditioned to appreciate our own capacity to play and linger in the moment. We were conditioned to value a furrowed-brow approach to labor in the ongoing pursuit an unattainable carrot-on-a-string. But children work hard too (often harder than me) their work just looks differently: climbing and running, laughing and negotiating, walking and talking, building and tearing down. And the crazy part about it is they have FUN doing it! It's pretty amazing when we stop to admire it. With this in mind, choosing the studio research question for the year was a piece of cake, or a slice of watermelon! I knew what I wanted to learn from the children and with the children:

*What is the value of play in human development and how might sensory alertness be cultivated and maintained as we mature?*

Additionally, how might we reignite our own sense of play, curiosity and experiential alertness within a Montessori school in which most of our educators are trained Montessorians, myself included, for whom play was never included in our training.

Most of all I am looking forward to joining the children and this community for a year of learning and **FUN**.

I invite you to join us on this odyssey of **PLAY!**

*How?*

I thought you'd never ask!!!

1. follow CGMS on facebook
2. follow us on our studio blog, at <https://natureandchild.blogspot.com> where I post regular photos and snippets of our week in the studio
3. plan to attend our *Studio Back to School* night on October 18th, the *Curator's Talk* in the Spring and the annual Festival of Art on May 9th.
4. COME play in the studio... if you have something you would love to cook or create just let me know, [lloydangelina@yahoo.com](mailto:lloydangelina@yahoo.com). If you don't know what to do but still want to play, stop by and we'll talk

I look forward to collaborating in the months ahead.

See you soon!

Your Studio Teacher,  
Angelina Lloyd

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See what's happening on our social sites

