

**Sunny Day:
Silhouettes & Shadows**

2016 Ms. Cretera's Garden Parents
Outdoor Lesson #17- 3.2.2017

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Objective: Observe if it is Cloudy or Sunny. If sunny, draw silhouettes of plants in the snow, and then draw your shadows. Explore: why does the sun cast a shadow? How do shadows show up, change, and feel?

Time/location: The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 min.

Materials: Black Crayons/charcoal & garden journals or white paper. White Chalk.

Poems: Excerpt from the poetic book, Shadow by Marcia Brown (Based on the Poem by Blaise Cendrars)

Books: Sun Up Sun Down by Gail Gibbons

Before The Lesson/ And Anytime we need to re-group (also Ms. Cretara's method, 3,2,1,shh....kids love to recite it:

-Deep Breath Pause: Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, (feel the water going up your trunk, into your branches, out to the leaves, make food, and evaporate) and breath out.

Part 1/Silhouette Stations (depending on snow pack)

Share some photos of silhouettes against snow

Silhouette drawing - graphite on white paper - 4 stations in the garden are marked with boxes- hand the kids a sheet with 3-4 boxes corresponding to the boxes marked on the path thru the garden (encouraging them to observe and draw silhouettes of winter plants)

Part 2/ Is it Cloudy or Sunny? SUNNY Read a little about how shadows are cast by the sun from 'Sun Up Sun Down' By Gail Gibbons. Just a few pages is sufficient on these winter days, to give more time for movement..

Part 3/ SUNNY/SHADOWS Trace shadows in partners

Pair off the kids. Talk about where the sun is and how our shadows are cast. In pairs each kid draws the others shadow. After they can lie down to see how much taller their shadow is..

Part 4/ Group Circle: Shadow Dance Movement Activity Based on the Shadow Book

Read a chunk of the book Shadow by Marcia Brown (Blaise Cendrars), and possibly guide the kids through pantomime:

In the daytime,

Shadow is full of life.

It waves with the grasses,

curls up at the foot of trees,

races with the animals at their swiftest,

nestles behind the elephant's ear,

perches on a stone,

swims along with the fish.

Shadow is magic.

You had better not look at it too closely.

For is it to the left, or the right,

before or behind, above or below?

An noon, Shadow is everywhere.

In the evening, Shadow spreads out;

not a hole that it does not fill,

not a hump, not a mound

that it does not double!

It even sticks to your footprints.

It lies down on the footpaths.

It chokes all the roads.

No one can pass,

for no one can push it aside,

it is so heavy.

Amplification.Option:

In a circle, ask each child to QUIETLY pretend they are a shadow dancing, stretching, moving quietly.

The other kids watch and copy each movement.