Dear Families:

We took advantage of the warm weather today and created “science concoctions” using water and “natural loose parts,” which are loose parts collected from nature. After a productive period of foraging, we amassed a treasure trove of sweet gum tree leaves and bark, as well as pine cones, grass, sand and flower petals.

When the children immersed these loose parts in water, they noticed changes in the consistency, texture, color and size of the parts. When they added sand, they observed that the sand absorbed some of the water. These observations prompted the children to ask questions, form hypotheses and draw conclusions. We explored the concepts of cause and effect and data analysis as they tested out various ideas and theories.

Science experiments like these are a great way to explore substances, textures, colors and chemical reactions. When children design and conduct experiments, they are engaging in inquiry-based learning, which includes activities such as hypothesizing, observing, collecting data and forming conclusions.

Free play with water can pave the way for an understanding of scientific concepts. Today our young scientists discovered the physics of flow and motion and learned about volume and measurement while experimenting with solutions and cohesion, the basis of chemistry.

Through play with loose parts, children follow their curiosity and develop skills such as persistence and collaboration as they solve problems and test out their theories to find answers. This is science!

So, on the next warm day, grab some bowls of water, forage for natural loose parts in your backyard or neighborhood park and create some “science concoctions” with your child!