

## Discovering air floating feathers on a breeze

One rainy day we were heading to the gym for gross motor play. A child arrived and it was his birthday, so we brought supplies to the gym to create a birthday hat. He asked for feathers. Some children began playing in the gym, running, throwing balls, riding trikes, while some of us began to work on the birthday hat. While creating the hat some feathers spilled over the bucket and floated across the gym floor. One child got up to go and gather the feathers. While walking over to collect them, some feathers made it to the air vent and in the blink of an eye floated up the wall on the breeze that was blowing from the vent. There was a gasp from the child and an excited giggle which attracted other children. She had some feathers in her hand and placed them on the vent, they too floated quickly up the wall. All the children giggled and came to ask for more feathers. This accidental happening turned into an hour long science experiment with the children. Some calling the feathers butterflies, some helping the floatation by blowing the feather along its path. One child lay down on the floor and blew the feathers along the length of the floor. Problem solving ensued as the feathers became stuck in the basketball net. Some threw balls up to get the feathers, some blew more, some shouted at the feathers, and then one child went over to the kitchen and got the broom, she gave it to the teacher and said, "Help please", pointing up to the feathers.

This is now a regularly requested activity in the gym. The children also experiment with other objects now to see what will float and what will not, but the feathers are their favorite choice.



ELECT:

**2.6 Positive Attitude Towards Learning:** expressing satisfaction and joy when accomplishing tasks

**3.3 Vocabulary:** linking new experiences with words they know

**4.2 Problem Solving:** brainstorming solutions and outcomes, evaluating the outcomes of their problem solving

**4.5 Observing:** visually attending to things in their environment, increasing the time they spend observing

**4.9 Reasoning Logically:** *Causality* - identifying actions and outcomes, exploring causes

Liam was playing ball and he noticed a feather floating along the floor. He reached for it and suddenly it floated quickly up the wall. He giggled and dropped the ball he was holding. He jumped up for the feather, "Can't get it!" he grunted. "Carrie," he called, "Can't get it". Carrie brought a broom over and swiped the feather down the wall to him. "You did it!" he shouted. He continued to place his feather over the air vent over and over, watching as it would float up the wall. Eventually it flew away and began to float along the floor. Liam didn't miss a beat, but lay on his tummy and pulling his body with his arms in front, he followed that feather all over the gym. He would reach the feather and then blow it along and follow it pulling himself across the floor.

It is amazing to watch Liam's enjoyment with this science experiment. He encountered a mystery, took interest in it, and then continued to explore it through play.

