

Exploring Rain Clouds

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This stormy wintery month is a wonderful opportunity to explore the changing weather. In pre-k, we have been dialoguing about rain and where it comes from. The children have many theories, which I asked them to portray in a graphic form. These quotes and images convey the varied thinking of the children, as well as their ability to use the language of drawing to articulate their ideas.



“The world spins around and when it faces the moon on one side, some of the moon’s air comes to the earth and bumps in and goes to different parts of the world” -Ali(age 5) describing where clouds come from



“It’s just like a connection ladder but it comes from the moon... It’s the air. And the clouds move to different parts of the world.” -Ali

“How can you show that the clouds are moving?”
-Alden

Ali goes back to her picture and draws a grey line around earth to represent the clouds, then yellow zigzag lines around the circumference of earth.

“These lines show the different spaces the clouds go to.” -Ali

“The rain is inside the clouds and it comes down and it turns into ice.

They’re kind of like stones and they’re made of ice.” -Mila(age 4)

“Does the rain always turn into ice?”

-Alden

“Only when it’s a storm and it’s raining...A thunderstorm and after it falls down it turns into little ice

balls.” -Mila



“I’m thinking of Hawaii. Hot lava goes into the water and then the clouds come and it starts to rain.” -Peter(age 5)

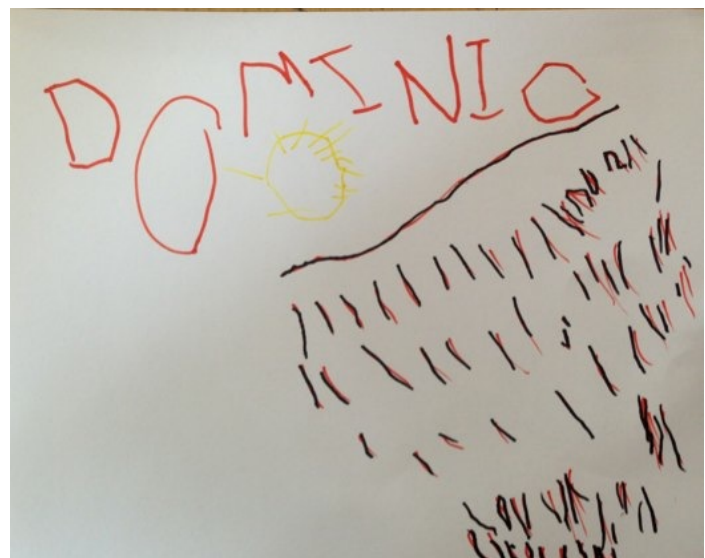
“Where do the clouds come from?” -Alden

“From the sky... They float and come down from the sky.” -Peter

“Where does the rain come from?” -Alden

“When the clouds have too much rain, they drop it.”

-Dominic (age 5)





“The rain hits our atmosphere and then it comes to the sky and then it starts raining.”

-Mahiti (age 5)

“Where does the rain come from before it hits our atmosphere?”

-Alden

“I think in space.” -Mahiti

“Where does the rain come from?” -Alden

“From the ocean.” -Gautier (age 4)

“How?” -Alden

“The sun makes it go up and then it comes into the clouds and when the clouds are full they drop it.” -Gautier

Gautier used yellow lines drawn from the ocean to the sun to show how the water moves up to the sky.

Then he drew another yellow line

connecting the sun and the cloud, to show the water moving to the clouds.



“I know how the ocean get’s filled. From the rain”

-Kyle (age 5)

“When the smoke goes up to the sun it makes a raincloud.” -Kyle

