**Materials and Environment Exploration Assignment: (December – January, 2016)**

**Please choose one of the following assignments.**

For the next month we will look at introducing materials to children. Particularly we will look at what do we learn from children about working with materials and what do we learn about the materials from observing children using them and what is our relationship as the teacher when we use materials with children.

You will choose one of the following materials and document the children’s experiences with them (take photographs, video, and written observations). You can choose to observe one child or a group of children using the materials. Plan to use and observe the interaction with materials more than two times.

Introduce the material. Observe and ask questions.

-Watercolor paints – liquid and/or tube

-Tempera paint – mixing two colors, using white with a color

-Clay

-Oil pastels

-Pastels

-A drawing material with watercolor paint: such as oil pastels, pastels, sharpie markers

OR

You may choose to study and document a particular area of the classroom – either indoors or outdoors. Document what you see children saying and doing in a particular area of the classroom over a period of several days. As you are documenting, ask yourself if you see a particular idea or theme that children are playing.

Areas of the classroom could include:

-dramatic play

-blocks

-art center

-science area

-OR during outdoor play