Red paint in the hair?
Blue paint on the jeans?
Sand in the shoes?
Hardened glue on the favorite shirt?
Sleeves a little damp? White socks that now look brown?

Your child probably . . .
- worked with a friend
- solved a problem
- created a masterpiece
- learned a new skill
- had a great time
- developed new language

Your child probably did not . . .
- feel lonely
- become bored
- do repetitive “babyish” tasks
- do worksheets that are too easy
- do “sit down” work that isn’t appropriate for their age group

You probably . . .
- paid good money for the clothes
- will have trouble getting the red paint out
- are wondering if your caregiver isn’t paying close enough attention to your child

Your child’s teacher probably . . .
- was aware of your child’s needs and interests
- spent time planning a challenging activity for the children
- encouraged the children to try new things
- made smocks available for the children
- was worried you might be concerned

Your child’s teacher made sure your child was fed, warm, safe, washed hands after toileting and before eating, and planned messy things for them to do because that is how young people learn! Try to remember your favorite activity when you were four years old. Did it involve the outdoors, water, mud, playdough, cardboard boxes? Young children need time to be kids. They learn best when they are actively involved in play – not sitting down while someone talks to them.

Send your child to school in clothes that can get dirty! If you need to take your child out after school, bring dressier clothes when you pick them up and allow time to change after school. Remember that in a few years your teenage will use all the shampoo, soap, mirrors and towels in the house! If you have concerns, please talk with your child’s teacher.

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