



EXPLORING OUR IMAGINATION USING

WIRE

COLE
DISCOVERED
WIRE
LOOPING
AND SHADOW

SO MANY
KINDS OF
WIRE

◆ OUR TWISTS AND TURNS!

Were you ever curious about the surprises of playing with a material like wire? How versatile and unique it can be with the many twists and turns you can make with this flexible metal? So were we!

One thing we discovered is that wire can become ANYTHING that is in our IMAGINATION! It may appear to begin as a straight line, but just like a drawing, a wire can transform into many lines, shapes or creations... the sky is the limit! Because wire is yet another way a child can communicate or visualize their thoughts or stories, all the works of our artists can have their own interpretation. All you need is your mind, your creativity and some muscle! According to Mia, (109am) **"this wire is all about learning!!"**



VERA
ENJOYING IT
ALL!!



IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

- What can students learn from playing with wire?
- How can you play with wire at home?
- Our latest projects, resource links, ideas for home play and how to **SHARE YOUR WORK!**



KENNEDY AND LEO USE TEAMWORK TO CONNECT THEIR WIRES TOGETHER!



GIANNA WAS HARD AT WORK PUTTING SPIRALS INTO THE FOAM

WHY PLAY WITH WIRE?

OPEN ENDED LEARNING THROUGH PLAY!

"Wire is attractive to children because it gives them the opportunity to think with their hands, which is something they enjoy. It can be straightened out and reshaped or reconstructed, but never appears to diminish. Wire's three-dimensionality enables children to transfer their observations of the world directly to their representation of it. Its flexible nature allows for change, so that ideas can emerge and re-emerge easily, with no penalties for exploration." [Bing School - Wire Exploration](#)

What skills are we learning?!

- **Development of Fine Motor Skills:** Manipulating wire strengthens hand muscles, improves hand-eye coordination, and dexterity. **GREAT for those prewriting skills!!**
- **Cognitive and Spatial Growth:** This 3D "drawing" medium helps children understand spatial relationships and transfer 2D ideas into 3D structures.
- **Creative Exploration and Problem Solving:** It is "forgiving" and easy to reshape, encouraging children to experiment, adapt their designs, and persist through challenges. They can always make it straight and try again!
- **Sensory Experience:** Wire allows for sensory engagement and encourages focusing on the "process" rather than a perfect final product.
- **Enhanced Imagination:** Children can create sculptures, abstract shapes, or connect items like beads to the wire to foster creative thinking.
- **New Vocabulary!!** Bend, straight, twist, thick, thin, strong, weak, coil, connect, sculpture and more!! Positional words are also reinforced! We went around and through! **They may even make up their own words for what they see!**

WHAT WAS OUR PROCESS?

MAKING OUR IMAGINATION STAND OUT!

There's no right or wrong way to get started so we dove right into play! These are the things we tried!

- **EXPLORATION:** This is a process that allows for open-ended thinking! The students were presented with all different gauges of wire and were asked to see how they move and bend. Which ones moved more easily or required more muscle and why?
- **TOOLS:** Anything can be a tool, including our hands! Using tubes, pencils, blocks and more, we found wrapping **around** created shape. Pliers and cutters are more obvious tools, but what about beads and foam?
- **SENSORY EXPERIENCES:** Not only did we work our muscles, we experimented with light, shadow and how that transforms the look of our wire. Our focus was required when putting wire **through** beads or **twisting** 2 pieces together to **connect** them!
- **CREATIONS:** After interpreting the art of **Alexander Calder**, (see below,) the children were inspired to make **sculptures** of their own! What is a sculpture? What kind of story can it tell? Either free standing, hanging or mobile creations, we found our imaginations took off!
- **THE GALLERY!** in the space near the studio, a Gallery has taken shape! The students' sculptures are now on display for all to see! We discovered that a gallery is a museum where we can display our works... and show them off to our family and friends!

They are so proud!

BENNY FOUND A WAY TO MAKE HIS WIRE STAND UP SO YOU CAN SEE HIS WORK FROM ALL SIDES!



INSPIRATION

WHAT WE SAW FROM THE WORKS OF ALEXANDER CALDER!

Alexander "Sandy" Calder (1898-1976) was a revolutionary American sculptor and a pioneer of kinetic art, best known for inventing the mobile. He initially trained as a mechanical engineer, a background that later enabled him to create complex, delicately balanced sculptures that move in response to air currents. Some of his most famous works, including the mobiles, were sculptures made from wire, many of which focused on shadows!



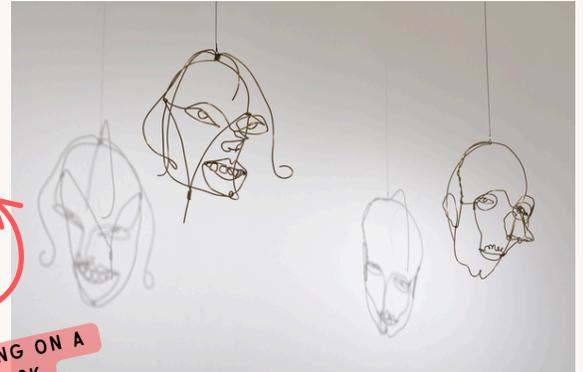
The students looked at his work in pictures and video and were excited to try some of his techniques, including making them move! Here are some videos we perused for inspiration!

[Alexander Calder: Happy Art](#)

[Alexander Calder: Performing Sculpture / Tate Modern, London](#)



ROISIN TRYING ON A WIRE MASK



STUDIO AT HOME!

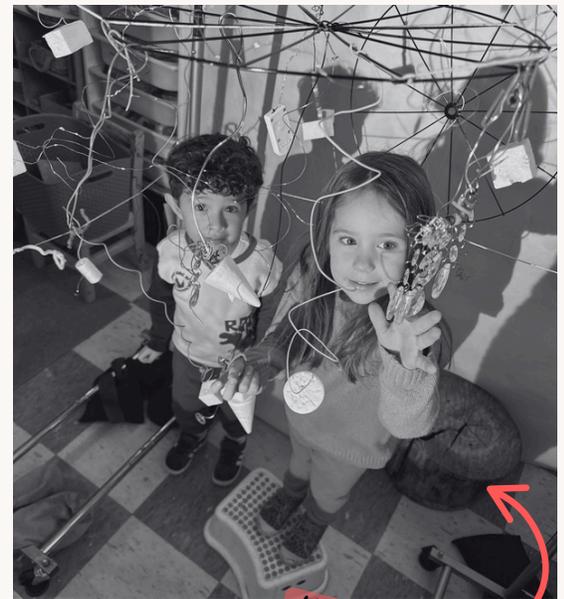
AND SOME RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ALONG!

Are you now excited to try to play with wire at home but you aren't sure where to begin? Look around your house for things made from wire that you may already have before you shop! Twist ties or pipe cleaners may be laying around, or I can give you some to get started! Attached is an article from another preschool to give some ideas of ways you can do this at home. Here is a link to my [Pinterest Page](#) of "sparks" to get you going!

The Bing School - Wire Exploration

[https://bingschool.stanford.edu/news/wire-](https://bingschool.stanford.edu/news/wire-explorations#:~:text=These%20are%20some%20of%20the,bending%2C%20stretching%20and%20wrapping%20it)

[explorations#:~:text=These%20are%20some%20of%20the,bending%2C%20stretching%20and%20wrapping%20it](https://bingschool.stanford.edu/news/wire-explorations#:~:text=These%20are%20some%20of%20the,bending%2C%20stretching%20and%20wrapping%20it)



ANDRES AND LILY ADDING TO OUR COLLABORATIVE WIRE SCULPTURE



SHARE YOUR EXPLORATIONS!

[Use this link to upload your work!](#)

I would love to see your home "ART" work! Working together, creating with materials between home and school, is an important part of building our community and demonstrating our learning...together! Using materials you already have or some that I can share with you, what can you and your child imagine in your own homes? Please share your creations with me! Use the above link to upload a photo of your time together! With your permission, I will be developing a space in the school to show off your work encouraging all to continue "creating" within our Stock School Family!

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JENNIFER DONLIN, STUDIO TEACHER

