

# Transformational Thinking

from ACORN (aka Growing Together) January 6, 2023

## Transformational Thinking

Symbolic, transformational thinking is essential to cognitive development in young children, and the following are some of the many ways we support it!

### How?

Shipping Boxes! But wait! Is it a box? a tower? a fort? car? football? What happens when we add fabric to our creations? Friends continue to find new ways to construct many kinds of objects with boxes.

### Animals!

Circle time for us is an opportunity to enjoy transformational thinking in other ways. This week we made animal sounds. Another day we did animal postures with yoga poses.

### Drawing

Putting ideas and thoughts down on paper is a pre-reading and writing skill. On our first day back from vacation our friends drew their favorite part of their vacation.

### Reflection

We continue with our Feelings Charts (thinking about and naming our feelings, giving names and transforming words about our feelings into colors, and writing our feelings using these colors on our charts.

### Gratitude

We continue to think about people, things and events that we are grateful for and dictate those thoughts to be written on a strip of paper that we place in our personal gratitude jar. This activity helps us be mindful of our gratitude while continuing to develop our symbolic thinking strategies through writing.

### Giving

Giving awareness and appreciation was a prominent theme in December as we changed our focus from what others might give to us to what we can give, particularly to the community (food), and to the animals at Holcomb Farm - pine cone peanut butter and bird seed, and popcorn and cranberry garlands

which we hung on trees. We are happy to report that most of the food is gone (all except the cranberries), and that we think our animal friends are grateful for our efforts!

**Bonus!**

Our activities through transformational thinking also provide opportunities to work together cooperatively, plan, make decisions, follow directions, be mindful, build on gross motor and coordination skills and focus.