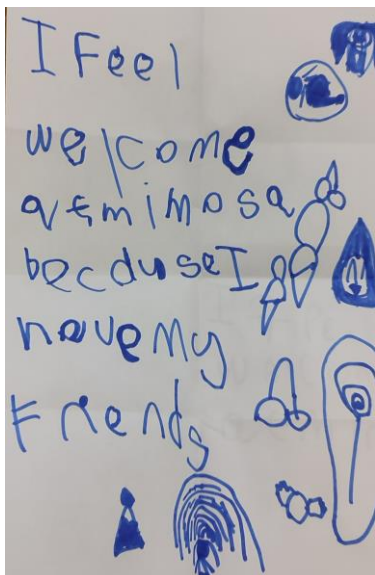


MIMOSA CHILDREN: ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As a community we are committed to actively shaping and creating spaces that hold all children as bearers of culture and of rights.

We recognize children as active participants in the organization of their identities, through relationships with each other, with ideas and with adults using the hundred languages.



To include children's voices in the Diversity and Inclusion Policy, each group constructed a provocation that invited the children to consider what it means to belong and to feel included at Mimosa.

Here we journey into the ink-stained landscapes of the written policy, and bring it to life through the children's eyes

Belonging

'I feel welcome at Mimosa because I have my friends'

'I belong in Mimosa because I have friends to make me happy. And they comfort me when I am sad'

friends



'I feel safe in the garden with the plants'

'I can feel the nature'

'Lying on the ground I feel safe'

'I feel safe when I am playing'



You experience belonging when your needs are seen and met

'It looks on this day that everyone is excited to be part of dress up because everyone had something to wear and something of their choice.'

my needs are seen

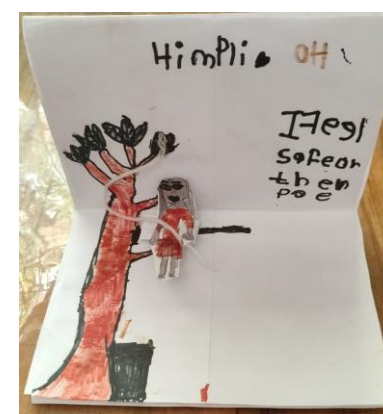
'I come from a home that is very different from everyone else here and I feel belonging to the school because my teacher always knows me better'

feeling safe

'I feel safe with the rope swing'

Uncle George at the gate

feeling known



'I feel safe with my friends when I am playing soccer. I trust them.'

'I feel safe around the teachers because they take care of everybody'

'I feel safe when I am learning'



I see you and I am seen

“I observe you, and while I observe you, I “capture” you, I interpret you.

But at the same time, I also modify my own knowledge.

So, observation is not only an individual action, but also a reciprocal relationship..

It is an action, a process that makes us aware of what is happening around us.” - Carlina Rinaldi

Seeing ...



... and being seen



“I have a name specifically chosen for me and it has a meaning behind it”

‘I have a brown skin mom and white skin dad and I am a mixed-race child.’

“I am different because I have autism and I perceive things differently from other people”

“I love your beauty spot and your freckles on your nose”



“Do you like the way I draw you?”

“Is this the right colour?”

I am unique

‘Lihle’s hair makes her unique cos her hair is her crown’



Zofia and Kganya - we are mermaids.

Ellie - with a scarf - I am a princess

Thinasonke - with a tutu - showing Adam look, look

Ndalwenhle - I am a princess and princess is dancing

Julia - I am Mickey

Ndalo - I am an Easter Bunny

Kganya - I got a tail

Ndalwenhle - I am a fairy

Teacher – Praise, what would you like to wear?

Praise - I don't want a dress

April - I am a princess and I don't have any name

Zimkhitha - I am a King

Bayethe - I am a Queen, I like to race

Zadie, Adam and Jaro chose to wear hats only

Oren and Praise had masks on - we are dinosaurs and we roar

Everyone has a choice to choose what or who they want to be

Teacher - Matteo are a cat ?

Matteo - mmm

Zaide - I am princess

Ndalwenhle - I am a spider

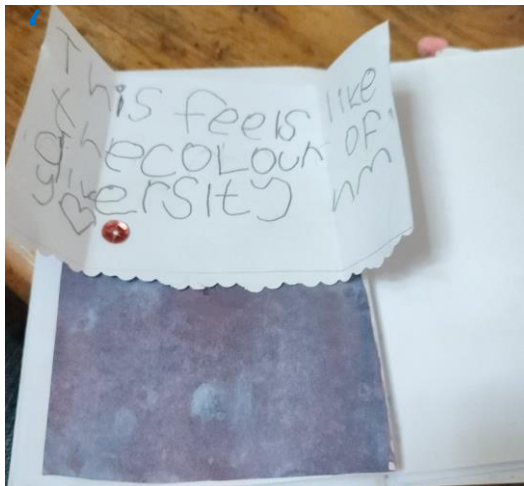
Rey - Me and my Matteo we are wearing black - coming close to each other

Matteo and Zadie showing that are wearing red clothes

Bayethe - I am pirate



'this feels like the colour of diversity



D I V E R S I T Y

"Diversity means many different things apart from being different in colour.

At Mimosa all the children come from different homes with different beliefs.

At Mimosa they are free to be who they want to be and express themselves however they want.

GENDER

Gender is if you wanna be a boy or a girl or both or none

IDENTITY

"I think diversity means it is okay to be unique because, that's what makes me, me"

CULTURE

CJ sent in the National Anthem. He chose it because he loves hearing it in the stadium when he watches rugby.

'You have a friend in me'. In Bobo's family there are diverse languages and heritages but he loves this song because his family are all friends, and its a family philosophy .

RACE

I think race is the way you experience yourself, how you experience others and how others experience you.

RELIGION

We also sing church songs sometimes because religion is important to our family.

LANGUAGE

Isa's family sent a song that everyone in the family loves. It's in Arabic and it makes Isa excited to know he can sing in Arabic even though he doesn't understand the language yet.

Zandi, Mngqobi's Mom, said, 'We play the Amapiano song at home and it has everyone in our house moving along. It makes us happy to be able to sing in our own language together. Its a way to be celebrate our language .

SKILLS

"We can do different things, like soccer and drawing. We are not the same"

‘What does inclusion look like ?

Floaty with wheels for the pool so everyone can swim

There is time for everything

There’s a ramp for people who have wheelchairs or walking problems



There is a secret garden, but everybody knows about it. It’s for everyone

Sharing tuckshop money

“Even if someone can’t find the right words, we can still be his friend”

When we are working, some of us need fidgets

People being kind

A path that goes all the way to the kitchen

Children trying to cook to see if they can

Children are allowed to go where they want, like in the trees and all over.



INCLUSION

Rey – Teacher, I don’t want this dress

Teacher - Which do you want Rey ?

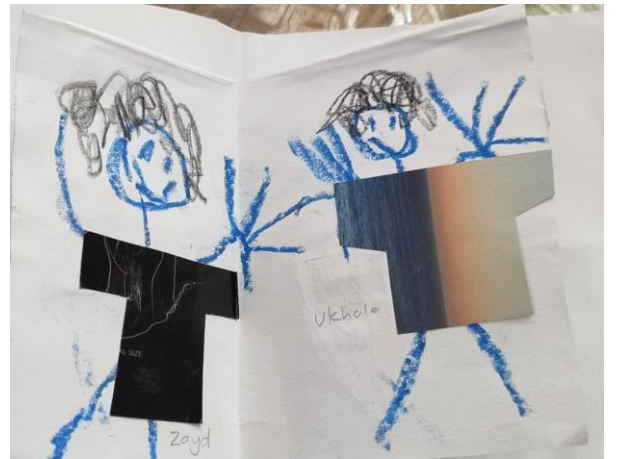
Rey - I want a dinosaur one

Ndalwenhle offered Rey a dress.

Rey still he didn’t want to wear any dress and said, no, no, I want a dinosaur one

Finally!
Rey gets what he needs!!!

Rey - I am dragon!



“My food is special because I am special. My language is important.”

“If we make pap for fun, we could each have our own bowl and eat it the way we like. Some of us may have it the same, some may be different.”

Its like you making a choice. You make the choice who you want to be. You make the choice where you want to eat? Whatever your head says don’t let anybody else make the choice for you.



Teachers getting along, giving flowers



“I need to find sea blue for my eyes”



Two people learning differently about trees

