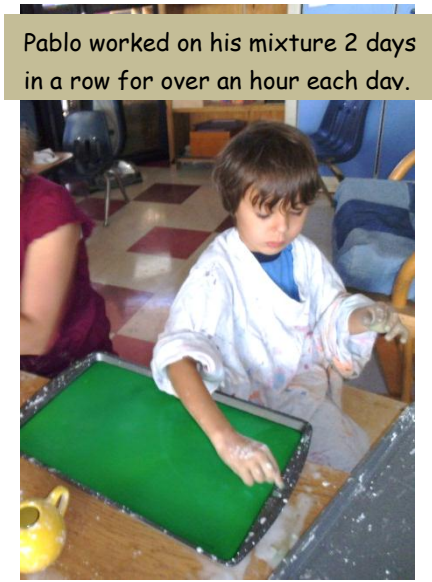




Annie and Erin feel the surface tension of the water. She filled up the whole cookie sheet, and saw that water takes the shape of its container.



Pablo worked on his mixture 2 days in a row for over an hour each day.



Working at the cookie sheet encourages children to talk to each other and share ideas.



11.2012 This messy play is really a science activity. Children worked in small groups independent of adults to mix cornstarch, water, and food coloring. They are learning to work independently and make decisions on their own. They are learning how water mixes with some materials and not others and when water mixes with a material, the properties of all materials change. Some of those changes can be reversed. Prior to the cornstarch activity children mixed water with salt, instant coffee granules, flour, sand, and soil and observed the changes to the water and materials. They worked together to make their own playdoh. We made Jello for our Halloween party and talked about how the jello powder and water changed. We ate some of the jello and heated some of it in the microwave. We could turn the jello back into a liquid by heating it, but couldn't separate the powder from the water. In the cornstarch and water activity, children decided how much water and cornstarch to add, giving their mixtures different consistencies. I put the trays outside and the next day, we discovered the water had evaporated and the powder was left behind.