NOWEMAPA 2025 HOPE

KE AO LONO

TS Gold: Cameras & brushes

Cameras have evolved into tools that people use frequently to capture photos and videos of their everyday lives, communicate with others in real time, create art, and do so much more. In this study, children moved from being subjects of pictures and videos to engaging with cameras as photographers and videographers. They explored a variety of questions and concepts through experiences that support all areas of development and learning.

Lights, camera, action!

It was the grand finale to the month and our two-month-long study of Cameras. The celebration of the study coincided with our annual Hope Fall Fest, making it quite the busy week! Keiki were able to see their photography skills develop over time, and see their finished work in printed photo collections, collages, albums, and videos. During our Fall Fest, we also featured special activities, like “create your own photo booth,” fall-themed snacks, art, and the famous slime-making.

The Honolulu Police Department officers visited Hope to share their experiences and help us understand the vital role they play in our community. Keiki had the opportunity to learn about the gear worn by officers and to see the special car that they use to do their job every day. In connection with our Cameras study, we learned another way in which photos are used - to create Keiki IDs. We appreciate our local police officers for visiting and keeping our community safe. We also had a member of the PIDF Communications team visit our school to conduct camera and photography activities with families. We had many fun moments captured in time by our little photographers!

By Lauren Somera

Kumu Kukui

By Pua Aquino

Welina mai kākou!

Many of us can recall silly nursery rhymes and lullabies from our childhood, but may not have realized these songs and rhymes were teaching us the basics of math and literacy. Children are easily able to memorize things that are set to music, which is why music is a large part of our daily routine in preschool.

In old Hawai'i, children were taught to memorize the phases of the moon. This was taught to the children as a means of preparing them for real life, as Hawaiians organized their lives around the movements of the environment. The Hawaiian language was kept alive through the revival of hula and mele. Hawaiian was an oral language so family members were taught mele (songs) and hula (dance) without ever writing it down. One of the most important factors in creating mele or performing hula is the concept of lōkahi, or unity. The musicians who play the music for the dancer are just as important as the one who is dancing. The same idea can be applied to real life situations where we depend a lot on the performance of another. A band that plays with lōkahi produces beautifully blended music; a band without it creates an unorganized jumble of sounds.

The 5 stages of literacy and why parents should understand them

Children grow as readers and writers through five main stages: emergent, beginning, developing, fluent, and advanced. Each stage builds important skills—from learning letters and sounds to reading and understanding full stories. When parents understand these stages, they can offer the right support at the right time, such as reading together, asking questions, or selecting books that match their child's level. This helps children feel confident and enjoy reading. Knowing how literacy develops allows parents to better guide their child's learning, setting them up for success in school and beyond.

By Dolly Naeole

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