



ISMILE BANDUNG *Newsletter*



May 2026
issue no. 9

A JOURNEY OF FREEDOM, LOVE, AND HOPE:

Our Easter Celebration

WRITTEN BY MISS FEFE

This year, our school community came together to celebrate Easter through a meaningful and immersive experience designed especially for young children. Instead of a traditional celebration, we created an interactive storytelling journey that allowed children to explore the story of Easter by walking through thoughtfully prepared spaces within the school. The event invited children not only to listen, but also to see, feel, and reflect on the message of Easter in a gentle and age-appropriate way.



The journey began in the hall, where the first station represented the special meal Jesus shared with His friends. A simple and carefully arranged table with bread and cups created a calm and welcoming atmosphere. Here, children were introduced to the idea of sharing and togetherness, learning that love can be expressed through simple acts of kindness.





To deepen this experience, the children engaged in a bread shaping activity, where they used bread cutters to form different shapes from slices of bread, and a drink pouring activity, where they carefully poured water into small cups for one another. These hands-on experiences encouraged independence, coordination, and a meaningful connection to the idea of sharing a meal together.





From the hall, the children continued their journey into the garden space. This area was designed to be quiet and peaceful, filled with natural elements such as plants and natural lighting. The garden represented a moment in the story where Jesus took time to pray. In this space, the younger children took part in watering the plants and playing with bubbles, allowing them to experience calmness and wonder through movement and nature. The older children were invited to write down their wishes or prayers, giving them a quiet opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings. Through these activities, children were encouraged to slow down, reflect, and understand that prayer can bring comfort during moments of sadness or worry.

The final part of the journey led to the tomb area. Through the use of light, shadows, and flowers, this space symbolized the transition from darkness to light.

Children experienced a sense of wonder as they discovered that the story does not end in sadness, but in hope. At this station, they created flower stamping art, using flowers to make prints that represented new life and beauty. This gentle activity helped children connect with the Easter message that light, hope, and joy can grow even after difficult moments. After completing the journey, each class continued the celebration in the playground with a joyful egg hunting activity. Children excitedly searched for eggs hidden around the outdoor area, adding a sense of fun and movement after the reflective experience. Once the eggs were collected, they were invited to sort them into chicken eggs and duck eggs, encouraging observation, comparison, and early thinking skills. This activity not only brought delight and excitement but also supported children's learning through hands-on exploration.





To ensure a meaningful experience for everyone, each class took turns participating in the journey. While waiting for their turn, classes also explored a variety of Easter-themed provocations prepared both inside and outside the classroom. These activities, inspired by a Reggio Emilia approach, encouraged creativity, exploration, and personal expression. Teachers thoughtfully selected and prepared activities that best suited their children, ensuring that each class had a unique and engaging experience.



Overall, the Easter celebration became a beautiful moment for our school community to come together in reflection and joy. Through storytelling, exploration, play, and shared experiences, children were able to connect with the deeper meaning of Easter in a way that was both meaningful and memorable.





Learning Beyond Borders:

Inspiring Lessons from World Forum 2026, Kuala Lumpur

Written by Ms. JC

From 13 – 18 April 2026, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the World Forum 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, together with more than 600 delegates from countries around the world. The forum brought together educators, school leaders, and early childhood practitioners to share ideas on creating better learning experiences for children.

One of the biggest lessons from the forum was that play is not separate from learning—it is learning.



Through play, children develop creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. We were reminded that teachers are not simply designing activities, but creating environments where children can think, explore, and discover.

The discussions also highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on children, such as reduced social interaction, increased screen time, and less open-ended play. This made the need for joyful learning even more important.



Another important topic was the role of AI in education today. While technology continues to grow, speakers emphasized that AI should support learning, not replace human connection. Children still need emotional safety, real relationships, and meaningful experiences.

Climate change and refugee education were also deeply moving themes. We learned how educators create safe learning spaces for children living in difficult situations, including war and displacement. Even in the midst of crisis, children should not lose their right to play, learn, and experience childhood.

Nature-based learning and “slow pedagogy” were also strongly emphasized. Children need time to observe, ask questions, and connect with the world around them. Education should not only focus on results, but also on the journey of learning itself.

Attending the World Forum 2026 reminded me that education is not only about academic success—it is about protecting childhood, building resilience, and helping every child feel seen, safe, and inspired. This experience has encouraged me to bring back one important belief to our school: when we value play, nature, and human connection, we create stronger classrooms and brighter futures for our children.





Little Heroes Celebrate Kartini's Big Dream

Written by Ms. Tiara

On April 21, 2026, our school joyfully celebrated Kartini's Day with fun and meaningful activities. The children arrived in beautiful traditional costumes, wearing colorful batik and elegant kebaya, creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

The celebration began with a simple storytelling session about R.A. Kartini. The children learned that she was a brave woman who believed every child should have the chance to learn and follow their dreams.

The children listened attentively and showed confidence by sharing their thoughts about Kartini in front of their friends. Their responses were simple yet thoughtful, making it a proud moment for everyone.

The celebration continued with joyful singing of "Ibu Kita Kartini" and a fun parade around the school. The children proudly walked around, showing off their beautiful costumes—some waved confidently, while others smiled shyly.

Through this celebration, the children learned about courage, confidence, and appreciation for Indonesian culture. It was a meaningful and memorable day filled with learning and happiness.



EARTH DAY:

LEARNING TO GIVE BACK TO NATURE

Written by Ms. Tiara



The environment was intentionally prepared to invite exploration and interaction throughout our Earth Day activities.

Natural elements such as soil, water, and organic materials were presented alongside recycled and discarded items, creating opportunities for children to engage through touch, movement, and experimentation.

Through planting exploration and seed bomb making, children interacted closely with soil and seeds, experiencing the process of planting in a concrete way. This continued in the pond cleaning setup, where plastic placed within a natural environment created a visible contrast and invited active participation.

In the water filter experiment, children observed how water changed as it moved through layered materials, highlighting process and transformation. Recycled materials were also sorted and organized, supporting classification while connecting to ideas of reuse.

These explorations were complemented by a presentation and a drama chapel, where the topic of trash and recycling was encountered in a shared group setting.

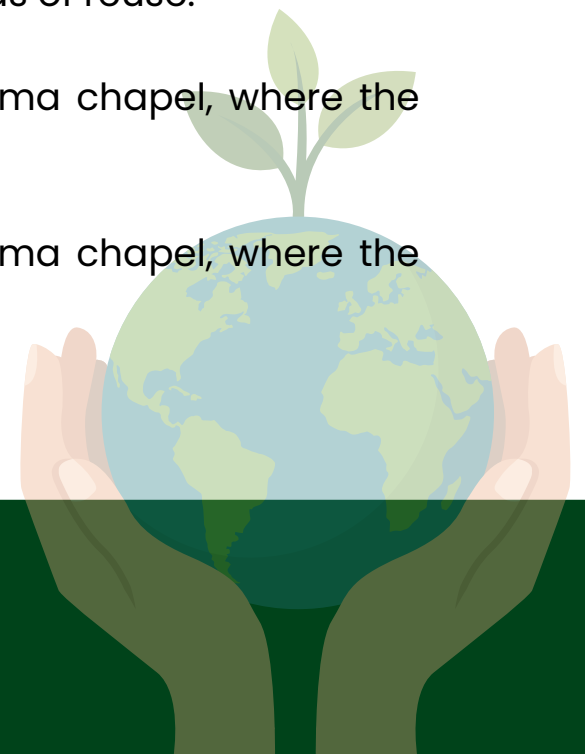
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Meaningful Moments: Our Field Trip Experiences

Written by Ms. Sharon

As we come to the end of our project work, each class from Nursery 1 to Kindergarten 2 went on meaningful field trips connected to their learning. These experiences provided opportunities for exploration, creativity, and real-life connections, made even more special through the collaboration and support of our parents, who helped bring the children's learning to life.

On April 28, 2026, our NIAC children went on a joyful field trip to Jendela Alam, where learning happened through direct experience and wonder. The children explored the farm with their senses—harvesting carrots from the soil and washing them clean, gently petting a snake and an iguana, and feeding animals such as deer, goats, sheep, rabbits, and horses. They also visited the chicken coop and observed how animals live and are cared for. Each moment invited curiosity, courage, and connection, as the children engaged with nature in a meaningful and hands-on way.





This experience connected closely with their ongoing exploration about the sun and its importance in life. The children visited hydroponic plants like pak choi and lettuce, discovering that even without soil, plants still need sunlight to grow. They also practiced planting by digging the soil, placing seeds, and watering them—beginning to understand that growth takes time, care, water, and sunlight. Through these simple yet rich experiences, the children were building early ideas about how the sun supports living things, while expressing their learning through action, observation, and joy.

At Jendela Alam, our N1B children spent a joyful day surrounded by nature. They decorated planter pots using recycled materials, turning simple objects into creative pieces. In the garden, they explored the soil and harvested carrots, later using them to feed animals such as rabbits, goats, and lambs. As they observed birds, reptiles, and deer, their curiosity grew. While some children were initially hesitant, many found the courage to come closer and interact with the animals. They also planted a Haworthia, gently learning how plants need care, and in return, help care for our environment.





The N2AC class visited NuArt Sculpture Park, where their project on wire came to life. Together with their parents, they explored sculptures and learned how simple materials can be transformed into expressive works of art. They were introduced to the works of Nyoman Nuarta and observed various wire sculptures around the park. A highlight of the visit was the hands-on activity, where the children created their own sculptures by shaping clay over a wire structure. The day ended with a shared lunch, filled with stories and laughter.

The N2B children had an active and engaging experience at IEVOKE Gym and iPlay Gymnastic. They explored gym facilities, learned how to use equipment safely, and discovered how muscles work and recover through the physio clinic visit. They also experienced the combat area and tried activities that built their strength. At the gymnastics center, they participated in guided activities that developed their coordination, balance, and confidence, helping them better understand how their bodies move.





Our K1A class went on an exciting adventure to Natural Hills, where they hiked up and down hills to reach a waterfall. Along the way, they observed nature and discussed the importance of water, identifying sources of clean and dirty water. At the waterfall, the children enjoyed feeling the fresh water, making the journey worthwhile despite the tiring hike. The day continued at a villa, where they relaxed, had snacks, swam, and shared a joyful time together.

The K1B children visited Chanaya Bandung Resort, where they explored nature and learned about caring for the environment. They observed different animals, including millipedes, and showed courage in interacting with creatures that were new to them. A nature walk allowed them to closely explore their surroundings, while feeding animals like rabbits and owls helped nurture a sense of care. The pizza-making activity was another highlight, where the children expressed creativity and enjoyed the process from preparation to tasting.

Finally, the K2 class traveled to Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) for their project on "The Planets." At Sky World, they explored the solar system, engaged in interactive discussions, and experienced space-themed exhibits. The 5D cinema and planetarium brought excitement and wonder, making them feel as if they had entered outer space. The trip continued to Dunia Air Tawar and Reptile Kingdom, where they observed a variety of aquatic and reptile animals.

Across all these experiences, the children not only learned new concepts but also developed confidence, curiosity, and a deeper connection with the world around them. These field trips created meaningful memories, strengthened family involvement, and supported the children's growth in joyful and engaging ways.



Where Learning Brings Families Together

Written by Ms. Femia

There is something deeply special about a community that grows not just within walls, but through shared moments, shared intentions, and shared hearts. In our preschool, this sense of togetherness comes alive most beautifully during project work.

Each class may be exploring different topics, following the unique curiosities of the children, yet there is a common thread that binds us all—the joy of learning, the freedom to explore, and the unwavering support surrounding each child.

What stands out most is how our parents become an essential part of this journey.

During our project work field trips, families do not simply accompany the children—they walk alongside them. You can see it in the way they move together. Children leading with curiosity, stopping when something catches their attention, and parents gently following, allowing that moment to unfold. There is no rush, only a shared pace.



Parents coordinate closely with teachers, helping create an environment where the experience flows smoothly. But beyond the coordination, there is something more meaningful—their presence. They are there not just to assist, but to witness.

Looking through the photos, I felt it deeply—the warmth, the ease, the quiet joy in every interaction. Children fully immersed in their world: exploring, touching, running, wondering, speaking, and simply being. And beside them, parents who are attentive, responsive, and connected.



There is a certain kind of beauty in seeing a parent pause and truly observe their child. To listen when they speak. To bend down when they discover something small. To give them space when they want to try on their own. These simple moments create something lasting.

This is where the bond between home and school becomes visible.

Learning is no longer confined to the classroom. It becomes shared—something experienced together, supported together, and remembered together. Children feel it. They move with more confidence, knowing that the people around them are present and engaged.

Even though each class is on its own journey of inquiry, all the children share the same sense of joy and freedom in learning. And surrounding that is a community of families who support not only their own children, but the experience as a whole.

That is what makes it so special.

It is not just about the activities or the outcomes, but about the relationships that are built along the way. The connection between parents, children, and teachers. The willingness to show up, to be involved, and to be part of something meaningful.

In the end, what remains is not only what the children have learned, but the feeling of having learned it together.

"The participation of families is essential—it is a value and an integral part of the educational experience."
— Lorís Malaguzzi

May events



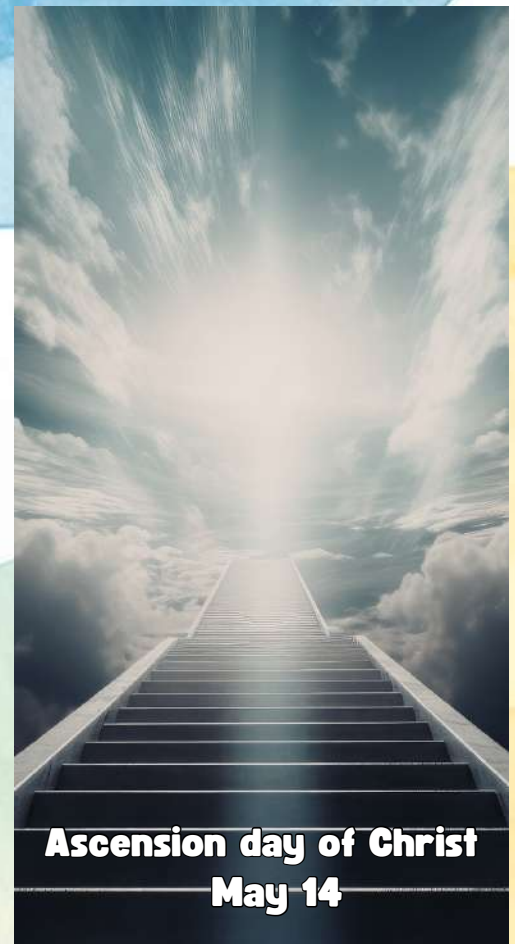
May 1



**Mother's Day
May 8**



**Open House
May 9**



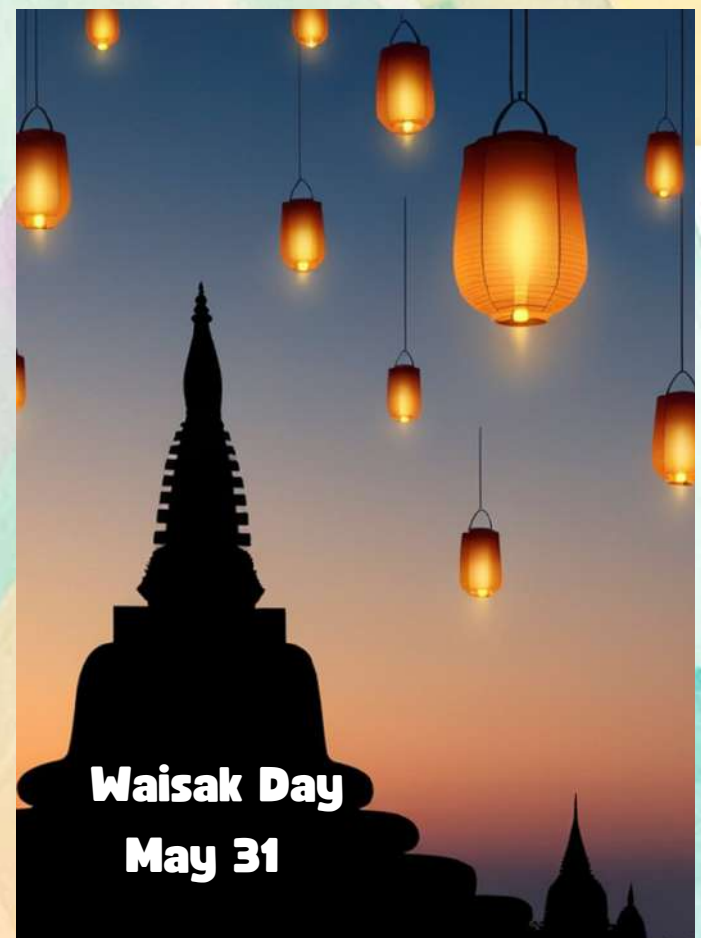
**Ascension day of Christ
May 14**



**Project Work Exhibition
May 13**



**Idul Adha
May 27**



**Waisak Day
May 31**



Parent Talk

The Importance of Vaccination for Families

Protecting health,
building a stronger
future together.

Speaker :

Mutiara Uli Ramdani, dr. (Limijati Hospital)



*Open For
Public*

Wed, May 13, 2026 | 9.30 AM – 10.30 PM

Venue : ISMILE Bandung

- *Insightful discussion on family health & vaccination* •
- *Mini MCU (Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Check)* •
- *Mini gift after the check-up* •

A thoughtful session for parents to better understand, protect, and support their family's well-being.



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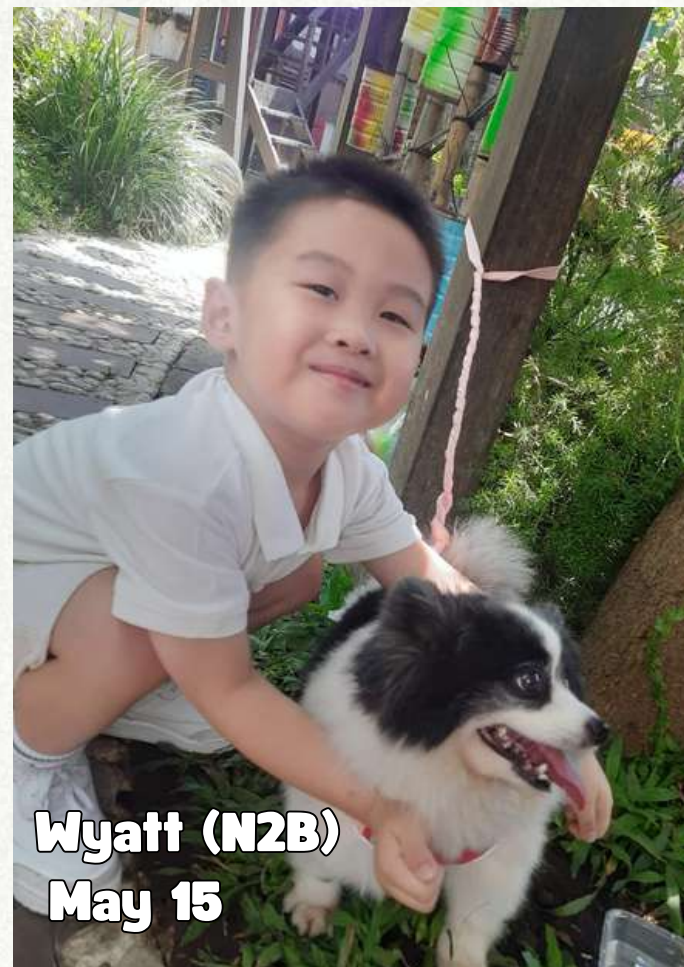
May

Celebrants



May

Celebrants



ISMILE Bandung Summer Program

SUMMER CAMP AT ISMILE

EXPLORE, CREATE, DISCOVER

15 June - 3 July 2026

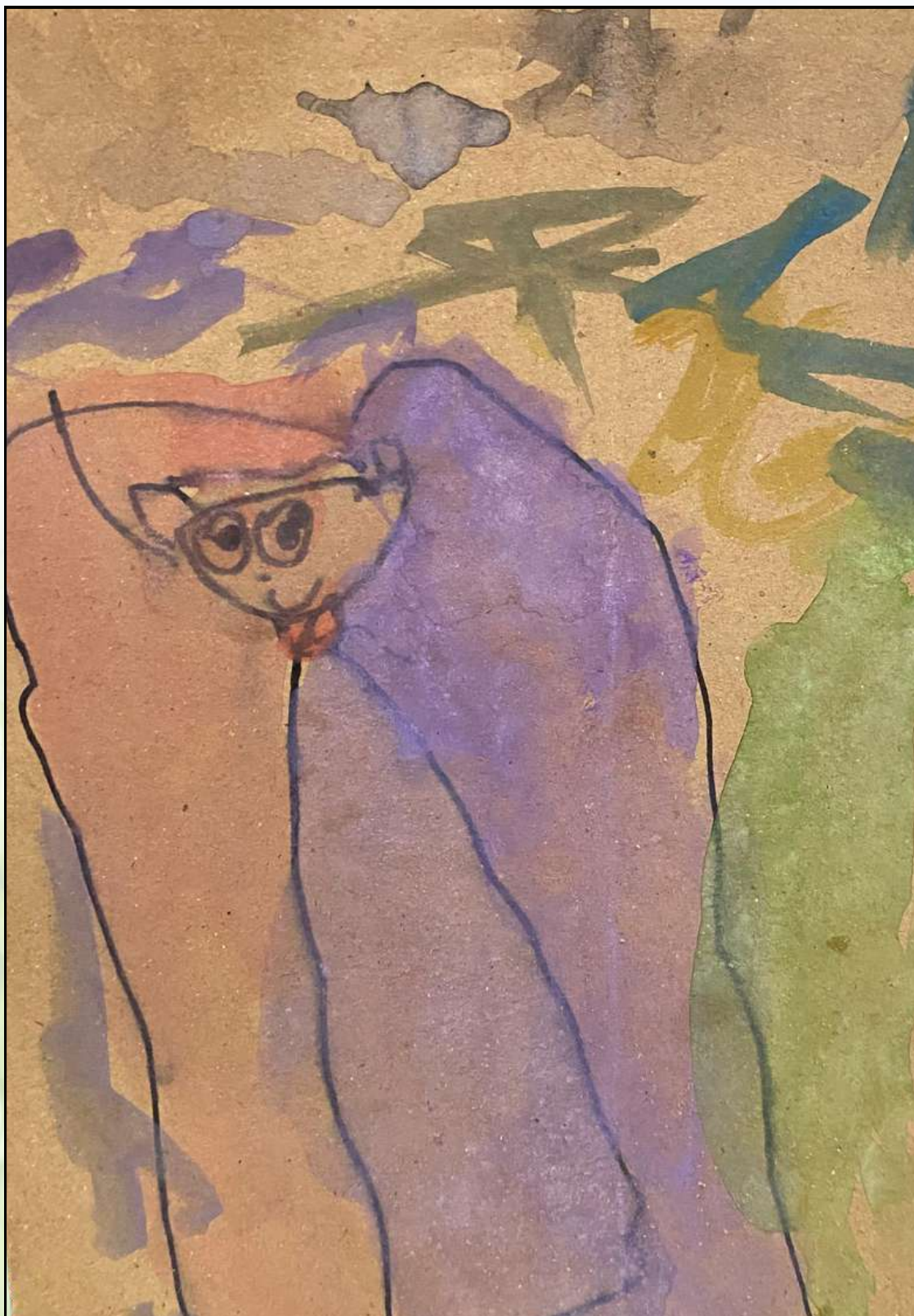
A place where they can ask,
explore, create, and simply be.
Let them grow, naturally.

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Chiara (N2A), 4.yo

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