Play is a means of deep learning for young children. In Gaffield Children’s Garden, we provide rich, open-ended Nature Play experiences. We are committed to it, knowing that these experiences will become an essential part of the child, will be transformed into intellectual pursuits, imaginative pursuits, support physical and emotional health, and promote positive regard for the Earth now and into adulthood. We encourage families to participate and replicate what we do here, in their own homes, apartments, and parks. Here is a recipe for Nature Play at Home: Nature Potions!

**SUPPLIES!**
- small sturdy cups or bowls
- stirring sticks
- small pitcher of water
- small baskets for collecting "ingredients" or small cups with various "ingredients"
- ingredients might include flower petals, grass clippings, pebbles, soil
- bucket for collecting used up potions

**PLAY!**
- set out supplies
- collect "ingredients" with child or model it
- "I wonder what kind of potion I can make with these tiny clovers?" etc
- stand back

**MORE PLAY?**
- Worldwide children are observed experiencing developmental stages where transforming one thing into another is very powerful play.
- Food, mud, playdoughs, baking soda and vinegar explosions, etc.
- Google "transforming schema" if you'd like to learn more about this important developmental play.

**CONSIDER**
- At GCG, this is beloved Nature Play. Children will repeat, repeat, repeat. Let them.
- Remember to let the kiddos lead the way.
- The difference between play and "activities" largely comes down to who leads it. In play, children lead based on their own interests and curiosity. In "activities" the adults agenda is leading.