



# A Casual Walk That Turned Into a Cake Making Session!

It's a frisky morning and we decide to go outside for a walk. We grab our "walking sticks" (in fact they are old shower bars) and leave without a destination or goal in mind. I observe my children. They both have big smiles as they look at everything that crosses our path: potholes, birds, rocks, neighbours, houses and trees. Children are so curious! We arrive at the river. They notice that the shore is covered with mud. They are both looking at me with excitement, hoping I will agree that they go in the mud with their dressy coats and without their splash pants.



I watch them in the mud. They are discovering that at certain spots, their boots sink deep and it creates a suction that makes it challenging to take their boots out of the mud. I notice Jade's (6 years old) face changes when her feet sink for the first time and then she shouts: "Ahhhh Mommy, my feet are sinking!" She then continues to walk in the mud and goes back to those sinking spots so many times.

Maude (9 years old) decides to make a cake with the mud. She asks me to put mud for her on a big piece of ice, then takes snow and puts it on top of the mud. We repeat the same pattern for a while and tells me that she is making a big layered cake. She is also using her stick in a horizontal way to make her cake look as flat as possible. Jade on her side asks me to put mud and snow the same way I am doing it for Maude. As soon as I do it, she turns to Maude and tells her that she's not making a cake, that it's something else.

## Reflections on The Experience:

- 1) I am wondering why Jade kept returning often to the spots where her boots sink deep in the mud?
- 2) During the cake making, why would Jade that is executing the same pattern as her sister but specify that she is not doing the same thing as her?
- 3) I am questioning myself about Maude's interest in repeating the 3 steps pattern to create her layered cake, for such a long time. What did it bring her?

*What can be more pleasurable than observing children during their play? To watch them discover the nature around them, to capture their interest by paying attention to their creations, to watch them think and question their surroundings, and to discover their hypotheses. I miss those moments from my childhood when we spent a lot of time doing nothing, when we could just live and explore, when nobody had expectations towards me.*

- Dominik Lavictoire, Family Resource Worker