

Project of Friends with Plants at the Liber School Northern Italy January 2023

# PLANT MUSIC WEEK



# GOALS

- **children are more aware of the presence of plants around them**
- **children learn and experience that plants are intelligent and sentient beings**
- **children create a personal relationship with plants**



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# LIBER SCHOOL PIEDMONT ITALY

**A private school**

**Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle School**

**Kindergarten 22 children**

**1st - 5th elementary 25 children in total**

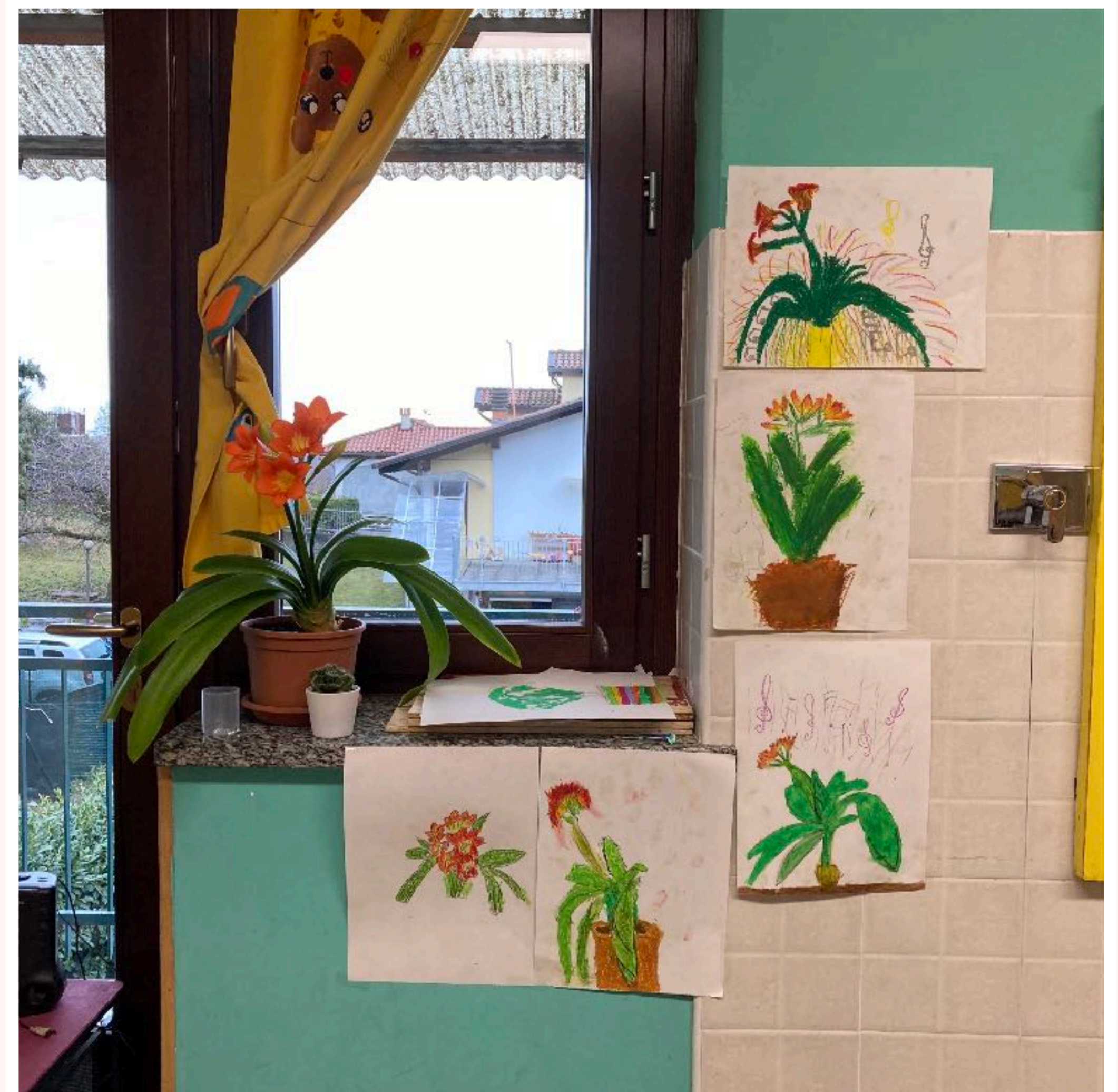
**Middle School 15 children**

**Italian language**



# SET-UP OF THE PROJECT

- **with curiosity and play the children research how plants respond with their music**
- **a dedicated plant for each class**
- **the children create a daily greeting routine for the plant**
- **all day the music of the plant plays**
- **the children get a new research assignment every day**
- **they keep a research diary**



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# A DAILY GREETING ROUTINE

- **The plant is introduced and treated as their new classmate**
- **The children decide how to welcome the plant and how to greet her every day**
- **The daily greeting routine can be a song, an action, movements, whatever the children find suitable**
- **The routine reminds the children daily of the reciprocity with the plant world. First we give something, then we listen to the music of the plant**



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# INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSES

- **A meeting took place priorly with the teachers for instructions and collaboration of how to integrate the plants and their music**
- **The teachers are invited to integrate the plants in their lessons, where possible**
- **The music of the plant is audible the whole day during their classes**
- **In this way the attention to the plant gets integrated in their continuous awareness**



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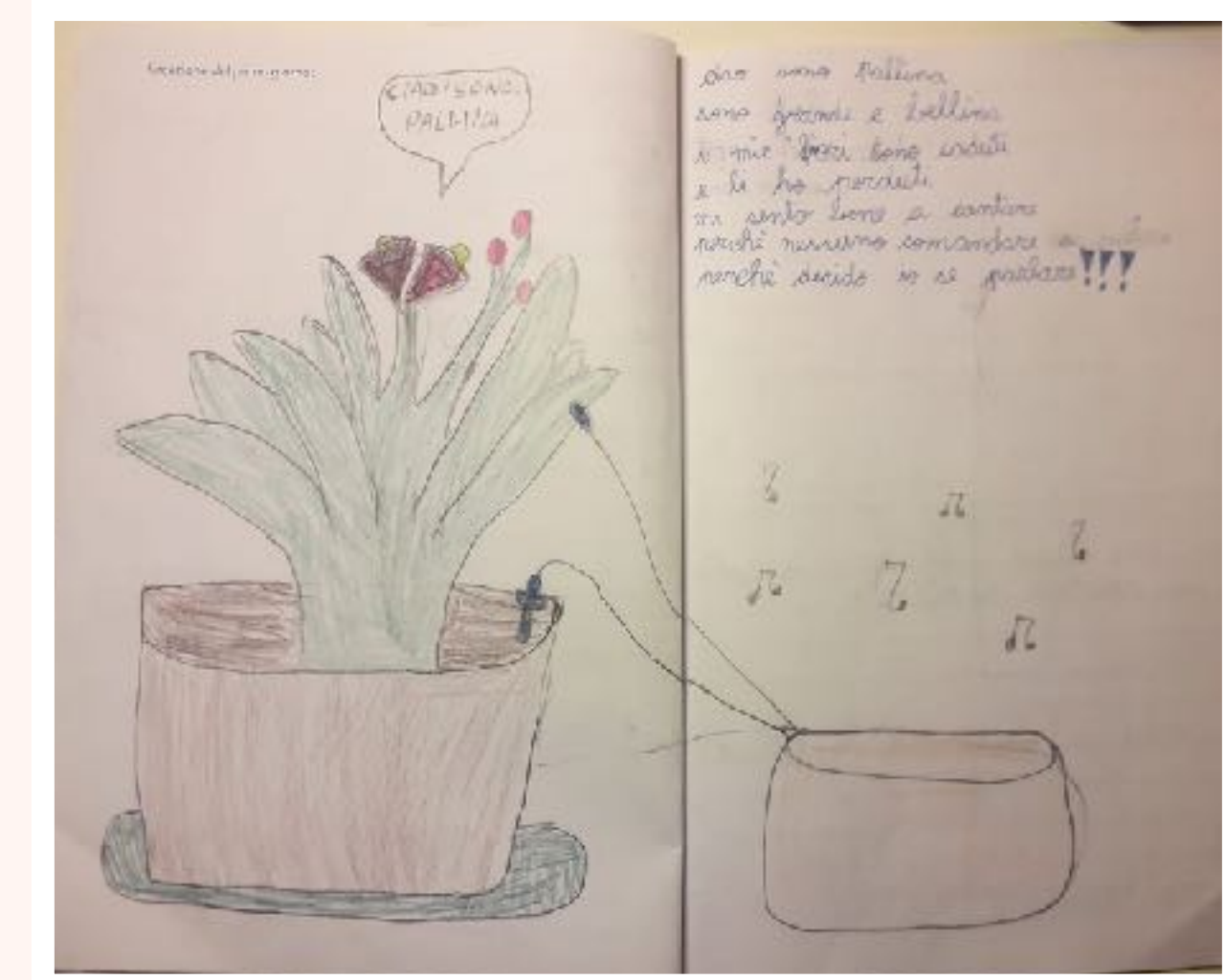
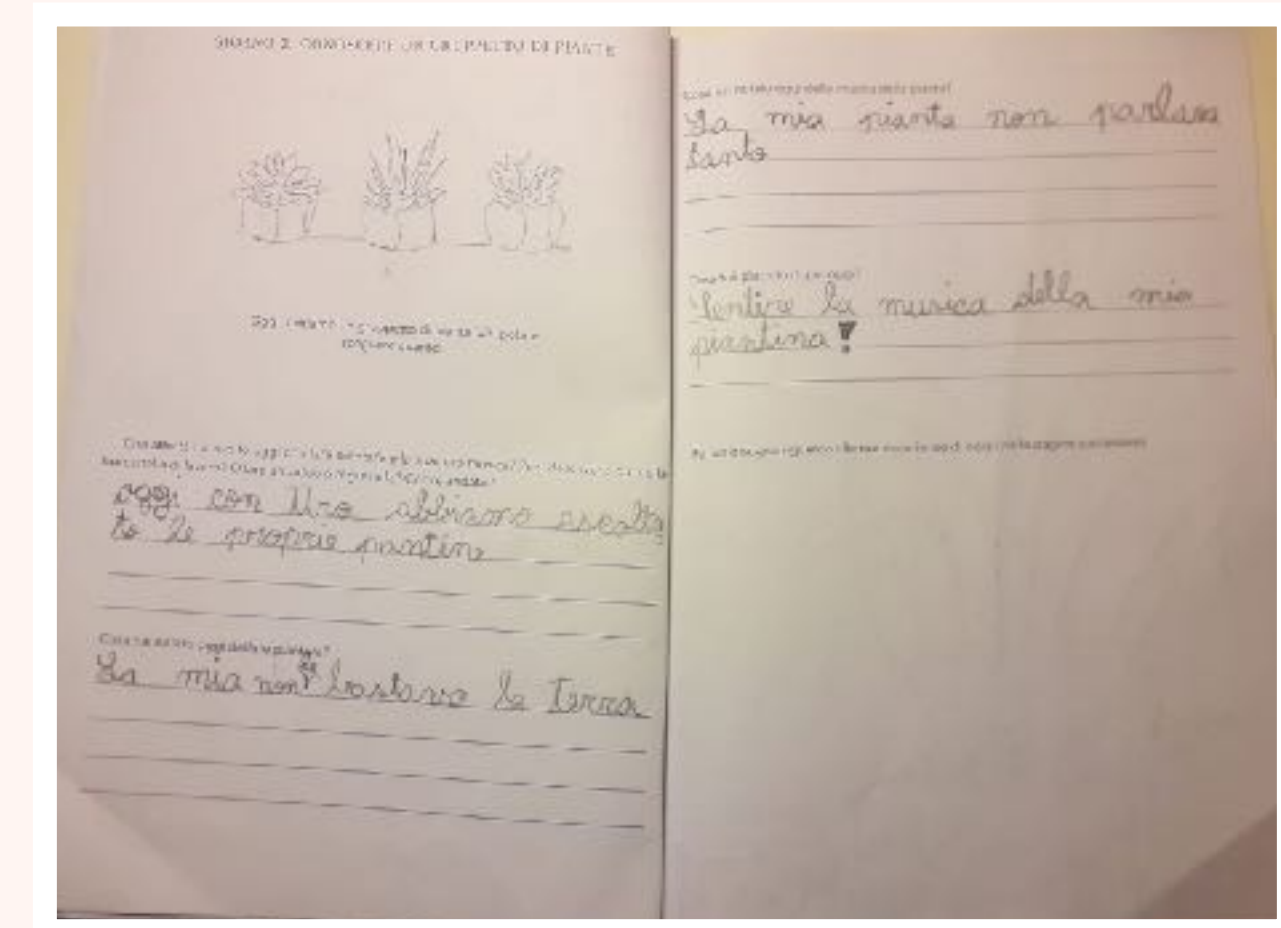
# DAILY RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

- **Every day the focus on the plant is slightly different**
- **Where does your plant prefer to be? Does the music sound different when you feel different? Does the plant play differently when other plants are close by?**
- **The different questions stimulate an attitude of research and alertness**



# A RESEARCH DIARY

- The children receive a dairy with questions for each day
- Questions referring to the daily research focus, like:  
What did you notice today? What did you like the most?
- Room to be creative in how you journal: drawings, video's.. based on how the child feels comfortable to note their experiences
- The journaling anchors their experiences and is a way to share with their parents and peers





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# FREE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXPLORATIONS

- **The children follow their curiosity**
- **Unpredicted things get inserted in the week**
- **Requests to hear the music of the grass and trees outside, or to use the device in a different way are welcomed**
- **Freedom makes them follow their excitement and satisfaction in the project**



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# END PRESENTATIONS

- **At the end of the week the children present what they discovered**
- **Space for final requests or collective experiments**
- **We speak about follow-up research if ideas arise**
- **Parents are welcome to participate**
- **The conclusion of the week is a moment to anchor the contact with the plants in a collective context of the school and family**



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# SOME QUOTES AND EXPERIENCES

Some examples of is what children and teachers did or said



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# SOME QUOTES OF THE CHILDREN

- **'Plants are like us but they have a different body' (Alessandra, 9)**
- **'I noticed that plants sang when their was harmony in the class and the the plant responded when I asked a question' (Gianluca, 10)**
- **'Today I liked best that all plants seemed to be my friends' (Tama, 11)**
- **'We and the plants have fun together and we help each other' (Monica, 8)**



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# SOME QUOTES OF THE TEACHERS

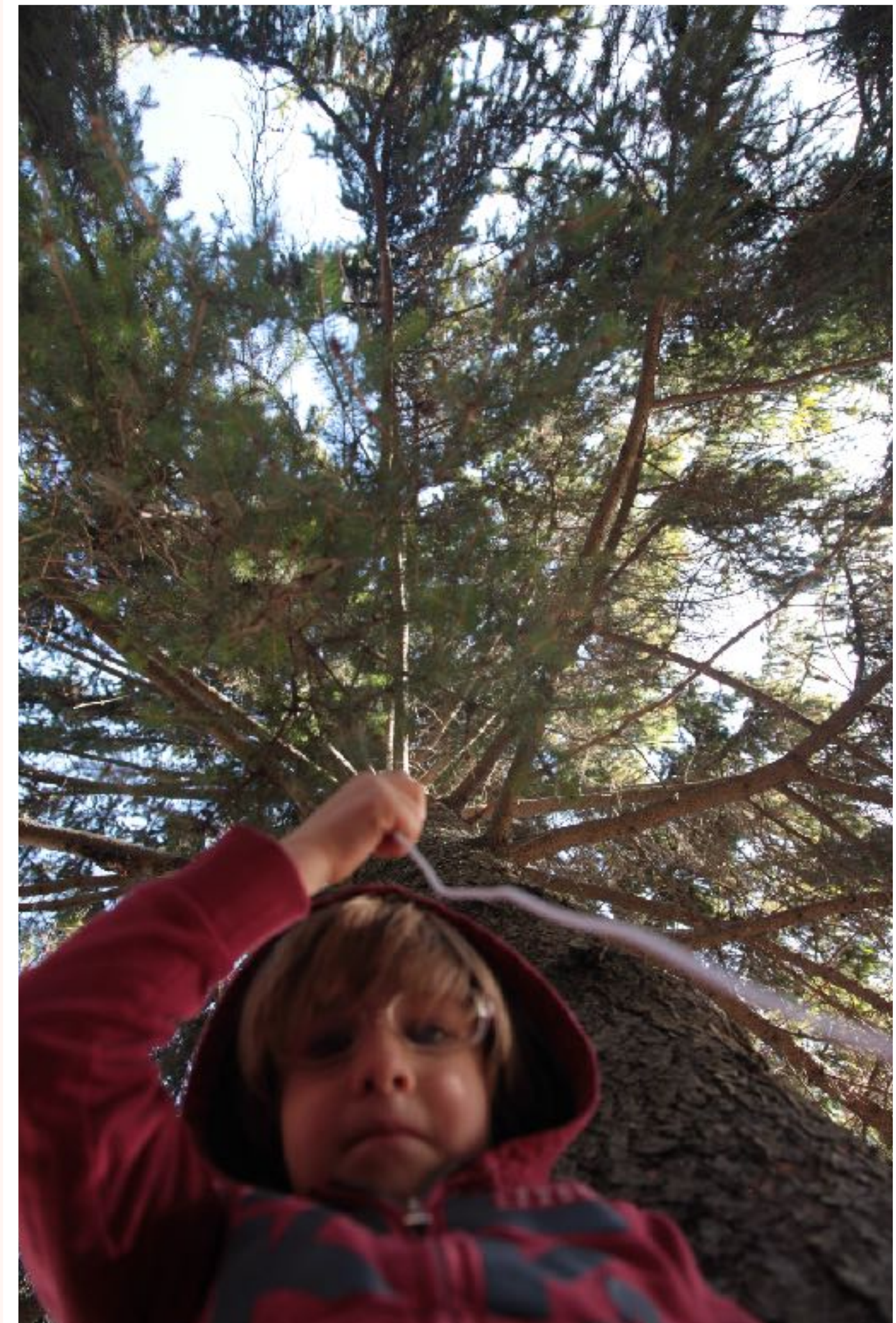
- **'The children are very involved in the project. They ask if they can bring plants from home, they ask what they can do to help the plant grow when they notice something might be wrong, like a little branch falling off'**
- **'The children have a continuous alertness of the plants this week, also when we are not directing the energy in the class to the plants. I have noticed the atmosphere in the class has changed, the children are calmer and their is more harmony'**
- **'I have been moved to hear the music of the plants in the school this week. There was such a beautiful feeling of harmony and beauty.'**
- **'This is a project we should repeat more times per year'**



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# A QUOTE OF A PARENT

- **'I have noticed since this project that my child is so involved with the plants and their music. I have decided to use the music of the plants also at home, I have the feeling it might help him with his restlessness'**









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# PERCEIVED RESULTS

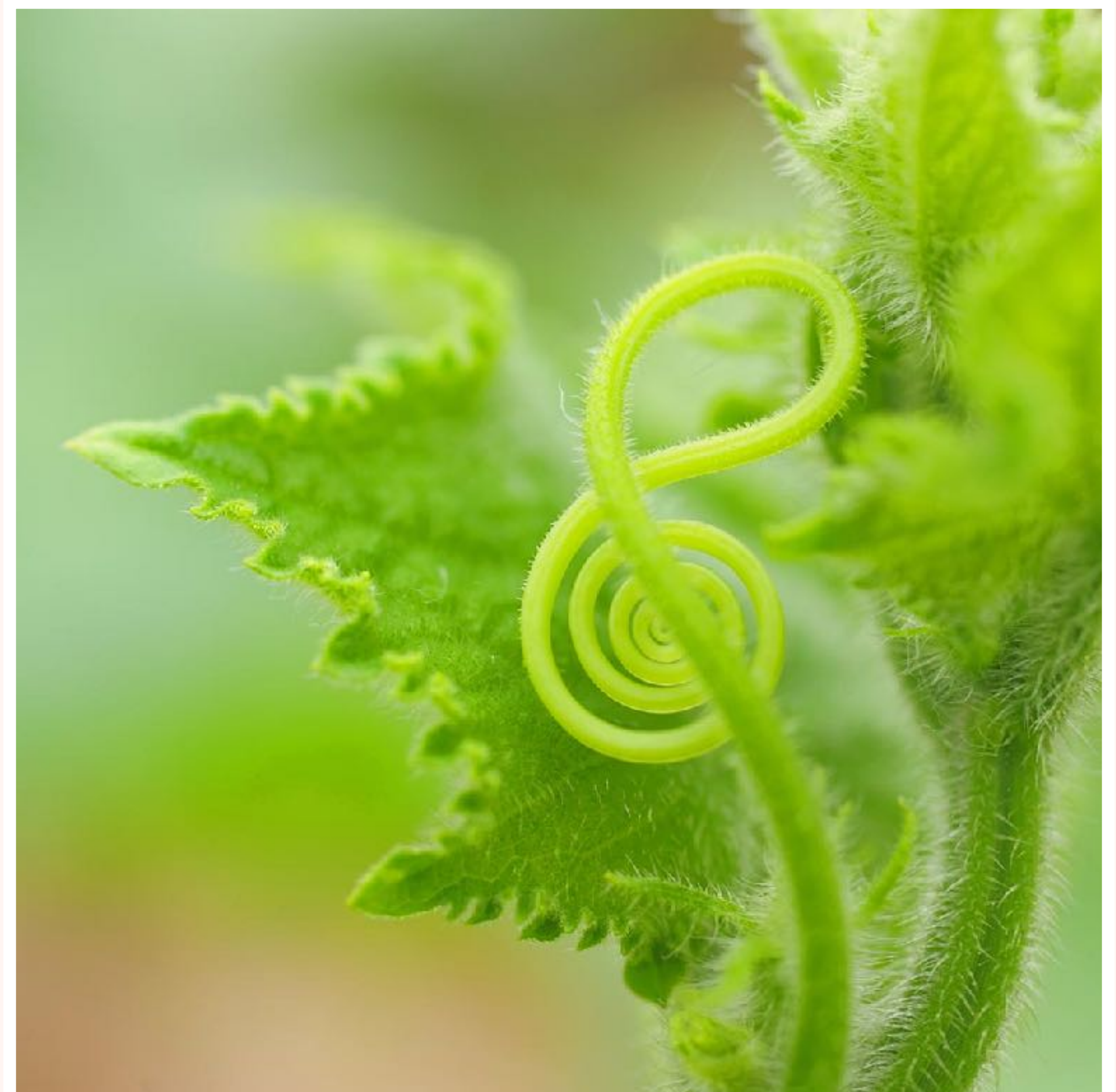
- **children were continuously aware of the presence of plants around them**
- **children learned that plants are like them 'just with a different body'**
- **children experienced a friendship with the plants**
- **children started to take care of the plants spontaneously**
- **the children started wondering to get to know other plants and trees**
- **the atmosphere in the class changed for the better**
- **the children seemed more harmonious and calm**



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# FUTURE GOALS

- **Training children to use all senses. In this way children will be able to deepen their contact with nature and create meaningful relationships with plants, trees and animals. Their friendship with nature will grow**
- **Children feel personally involved and responsible for nature. They take nature into consideration in all of their choices. In this way they can grow to become guardians of the biosphere and biodiversity**
- **Experiential outdoor education is part of the project so that children spend more time with and in nature**
- **Children will have practical examples how they can take care of nature, so they deepen their bond with actions in a continuous way**



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# MORE INFO

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