



This afternoon your child participated in an Art Appreciation lesson. Today we talked about Navajo weaving. This was a form of applied art -- something is made to be used and has aesthetic beauty.

Some ideas we discussed were:

1. We read a story called Weaving the Rainbow, by George Ella Lyon, that while it isn't about Navajo weaving, it tells a story about how a weaver turns white sheep's wool into colorful string to weave with. The kids heard terms like warp and loom;
2. We showed them examples of Navajo rugs, blankets and serapes; and pictures of the four corners area of the United States where most Navajo now live and the landscape where they get their inspiration;
3. We talked about the geometric shapes the Navajo use in their weaving and four-fold symmetry, which is symmetry both horizontally and vertically...like a pie cut in four equal wedges;

Lastly, the kids each used crayons and oil pastels to draw their own Navajo rug design. It is wonderful seeing what your children come up with. They have such great eyes for design and color and fun. We hope your children enjoyed the lesson, too.

Sincerely,
Your Art Appreciation Volunteers.