Constructing ideas and instant reflection

Below is an example of one strategy that the kindergartners have developed for collaborating on their ideas for compositional work. **Co-constructing:** When the children build upon each other’s ideas to create a new idea. **Instant reflection:** when children are working and continuously reflecting in order to edit and re-edit.

At first Leila says she has an idea to make a circular shape. She begins to take out one pebble at a time. Kalena says, “Wait, here is an easier way,” then slowly pours out the pebbles and forms the shape with her hands.

If you notice, Kalena stands up on her stool to look down at their composition and Lelia’s idea. This is another strategy of instant reflection the children have adopted. Then she says, “Oh, that gave me an idea. What if we...” Kalena
Kalena then separates the one shape into two. Then I have both girls do an instant reflection and have them look at both ideas in the camera’s lcd screen. Leila says, “Wait! That gave me another idea!”

Leila separates the shapes into three circles.

Kalena again stands on the chair to look at the emerging idea...
Kalena then says,” Oh, we could take that idea and make it go all the way across like a line.” “Yeah, we could do a pattern red, white, red, white.” The girls both agree, and a new idea is born.

This is just one small example of the way children construct ideas together and engage in instant reflection. These are some of the processes we have adopted and work with everyday in the studio.