

Willow Journal

October 18, 2019

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As we end another week of school I can't help but think of the outstanding growth we have experienced in just seven weeks! Our block area has quickly become a popular destination for learning and the positive effects to our Willows students is very exciting!

On Tuesday we saw a perfect example of the benefits of block play when a teacher helped to guide a fantastic moment between **Porter**, **Christopher**, **Erin**, and **Curtis**. **Porter** began building a tower in the block area when **Christopher** picked up a magnetile to put on **Porters** tower.



Teacher: **Christopher** ,why don't you ask **Porter** if you can build with him.

Christopher: Can I build with you?

Porter: Yes

They begin stacking the magnetiles together when **Erin** and **Curtis** came over to build with them.

Teacher: Remember to ask if you can help build before you put a magnetile on their tower

Curtis: Can I help?



Erin: Can I help?

Porter then nodded his head yes and all four of the children began stacking together. They all worked excitedly



and the tower quickly grew taller and taller. Although I observed many students yearning to knock down the tower, they all respected that it was **Porter's** tower and continued to help him build it. After **Porter** knocked down his tower, all of the builders laughed and clapped their hands in excitement and then came together again to repeat the fun!

Whether its solo or group building, there are many benefits when it comes to children and building. Children that build together learn to foster teamwork and how to play amongst each other with respect and cooperation. They begin learning the process of taking turns and using their language to communicate their thoughts and ideas of how they want their end result to look. We have started to see negotiating between



Dylan and **Miles** for which shapes they want to build with and how they can ask or trade with other friends that are also building in that area.



The block area has also been an amazing learning tool for spatial awareness and understanding that there are other people and creations in the area. Buildings,

houses, towers, and ships do get knocked down, frequently, and when they do it fosters an opportunity to recreate their design.

Jennifer, Jacki and myself have noticed both classes love for building. We plan to use this momentum going forward by continuing to include block play as a staple part of our day, using more table provocations centered around building, and maybe in the future working together on a building project!

Materials

Pumpkins

Paper

Cardboard tubes

Straws

Hole puncher

Hammer

Golf Tee's

Lego's

Paint

Activities

Observation pumpkin drawing

Pumpkin painting

Cardboard tubes with straws

Pumpkin hammer and Tee's

Lego Painting