



We are three weeks into the school year and we are learning so much about your children. They teach us constantly, which is an essential part of our own process as educators. Being new to the Willow class and teaching toddlers, I am finding wonder in each of the children's abilities and personalities, from the newest two year olds to the second year Willows. These simple insights are precious; with them, we can respond to the

children so they will feel heard and understood, and they will trust us to help them regulate their often overwhelming feelings. They also teach us when it is best to quietly observe and trust the child to



find his or her own way. They are easing into the schedule; even the second year Willows had to adjust to a new post-lunch routine. Even so, when I turned to remind **Amelia** where to take her lunch box this year, I saw that she already knew exactly what to do. **Sadie**

helps remind the new children not to touch the doors and **Parker** models loving attention to Chester and Kevin (our guinea pigs.) **Dylan** and **Miles** astound the





younger ones with their building prowess and **Emilia** reveals her confidence by asking new friends, "What's your name?" When I go over the steps of the routine with the new Willows, saying "After snack we will go to the potty, change diapers and...", **Christopher** says, "We go outside!" **Naomi**, who has spoken only Russian, now understands my questions and will say, "Yesh." **Isabella** quietly brings teachers cups of

"coffee" and **Curtis** will surprise you by starting a game of catch with his lovey. **Porter** will run to a crying friend to comfort her and **Logan** regularly checks in by saying, "What did you do today?" **Daisy** will come over with a smile to show me treasured pebbles and **Teddy** carries the diggers and dump trucks wherever he goes. **Isla** experiments with picking up fistfuls of water, and **Bella** experiments with different ways to work the handle of the pump. **Erin** will comfort herself at times by singing "Mommy's coming back"



and **Vail** carries her lunchbox to calm herself. **Gigi** raptly follows every gesture and action at music, and **Emerson** boldly tries to sing all the songs. **Will** can fall from the height of two crates and be entirely unfazed and **Tate** likes to remove all of the labels from his lunch containers and arrange them on the table. **Grace** likes to paint at the easel, but loves to paint the walls, and **Henry** will laugh and dart away as soon as he gets his diaper off. What a wild ride this



will be! I am looking forward to everything that comes with it.

Materials and activities: Painting with primary colors, play dough with animals/ loose parts/ herbs/lavender/tools, cloud dough with loose parts, oil pastels and paint on squares and triangles, water color with pipettes on coffee filters, gluing tissue and coffee filters to our paper umbrella, bristle blocks, kinetic sand with animals, painting a tire and painting with cars.

In the sensory bin: Sand with trucks and scoops, flax seed with dinosaurs and scoops