Getting Started

The Green Room friends have been busy during their first weeks of school becoming acquainted with new spaces, new teachers and new friends. Each morning the friends walk into the Children’s School, find their lockers and hang their coats and backpacks. Then the friends wash their hands and hang their attendance picture on the “I’m Here” attendance board. The friends then choose a puzzle in the Puzzle Room, build with blocks in the Green Room, investigate what is in the sand table or some other independent activity during free choice time. At 9 A.M. circle time begins and the friends make their way to either the Green Room Rug, Puzzle Room Rug or Green Room Annex rug. During circle the friends do their morning jobs. The children really enjoy being the calendar helper, the weather helper and the number helper. These jobs, which are rotated weekly so each friend has a turn, allow the friends to lead part of the circle.

At the start of the school year, circle time was a great time to discuss rules and expectations with the friends. After circle, it is activity time. During activity time, the friends participate in activities planned and led by the teachers. This is a great time to play group games, like Candyland, Uno and Zimbos. Activity time is also a time used for science experiments, cooking lessons and theme-related projects.

Snack time is next. In the Green Room, we serve our snack family style. It gives the children the opportunity to pass a plate to one another while socializing. The friends have also been learning to pour their own milk, juice or water from a small pitcher.

When the friends have finished their snack, and cleaned their snack area, it is time to get ready for outdoor time. The friends watched the progression of the playground being built over the first few weeks they were in school. Now that is complete, the friends love the finished product.

When the whistle blows, the friends know it is time to either go home or transition into the extended program and that tomorrow we can do the whole routine over again!
I’m In School/ Community!

At the Children’s School, our school year is broken into theme-related units. During each unit, the teachers change the classroom materials and plan activities and Circle time story tellings that relate to the unit. Here are some of our featured activities that made the I’m In School/ Community unit so special.

**All About Me Book**

Each friend worked in and presented an All About Me book. The book allows the friends to think about the things that are important to them in their lives. The book asks the friends to draw a self-portrait, a picture of their family, a picture of their house and to draw some of their favorite things. Once completed, the friends had the opportunity to share their drawings with their friends at circle time.

**Family Graph**

First the friends had to think about how many people are in their family. Then they collected that many people shaped papers to color and decorate. Then the friends added their decorated family members to a large strip of colored paper. The friends used these graphs to compare the number of family members from one family to the next.

**Mailboxes**

All of the friends have a mailbox in the Green Room. It allows the friends to communicate with one another by sending mail and it also gives the friends a place to store their artwork if they are not quite finished yet. The friends decorated the mailboxes in our first two weeks of school to make them special. They used confetti pieces, colored paper, stickers and markers to make them unique.
Family Collages

The family collage project began at home. The friends worked on this project with their families selecting special pictures to include in the collage. At school, the friends had the opportunity to share their collages with their friends, pointing out the people in their pictures and the location.

Post Office

Our dramatic play center was transformed into a post office, to highlight the importance of communication in a community. The friends dressed as post office workers with hats, jackets and mailbags. They practiced filling envelopes and shipping boxes with mail. They used stamps on the mail that indicated if it was “first class” or “air mail.” Most importantly, the friends learned the importance of having reliable post office workers to get the mail from here to there.

The New Playground

The friends have learned that the playground was worth the wait. The new climber, large sandbox and new bike path are our favorite things to do outside!
Special Fridays and Birthday Celebrations

Visit From the Librarian
Ms. Laurel, from the Carnegie Library, read the friends a story, *Mrs McTata and Her Houseful of Cats* by Alyssa Capucille. She also shared an African folktale, *The Name of the Tree*. The children had fun clapping out the syllables in their names and comparing who has the most, least and same number of syllables in their names.

Visit From Turner Dairy
Becker Turner of Turner Dairy Farms came to talk to the friends about life on the farm. Specifically, Becky discussed the importance of cows and the jobs that they do on the farm. She brought a large inflatable cow, examples of cow feed and milkshakes that were made at the farm. The friends loved learning about cows and loved tasting the product.

Birthdays in the Green Room
During the first several weeks of school, the Green Room celebrated the birthdays of Lynn, Kayla and Elena.

Lynn’s family enjoyed singing Happy Birthday and eating a special banana bread treat. Kayla’s Mom and sister joined Kayla’s circle and entertained the friends with some music.

Elena’s Mom and sister visited to share a special story during circle. The friends enjoyed eating cranberry muffins. Elena helped to make them.