Hello Children’s School friends and families! For those of you who I have not met yet, my name is **Hayley Rahl**, and I am a junior psychology major with a concentration in developmental psychology, health psychology, and an art minor. I am from northern Virginia and have worked there as a nanny, daycare teacher, and camp counselor. In Pittsburgh, I was an intern for Dr. Carver's *Practicum in Child Development* course last semester and enjoyed working with the PM Blue Room friends. This semester I am a classroom assistant in the preschool. I am also a student researcher at the Children’s School, currently playing the Emotions Game, which assesses whether children rely more on visual cues or auditory cues to determine how someone feels. Working with friends at the Children’s School is a blast and has become a highlight of my week! The best experience from last semester was when the Blue Room friends took a bike ride around campus. This semester the art projects have been wonderful! My plans for the future include grad school for child clinical psychology, and as much traveling as possible. I hope to see you around the Children’s School!

“Find ways to play.”
So writes Stephen C. Lundin to corporate executives and businessmen in *Fish!: A Proven Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*. It’s **Jackie Mishol**’s favorite challenge. Jackie writes, “As a sophomore Dramaturgy major - which is in essence a triple major in drama, history, and English writing - I am always searching for ways to incorporate fun in my work. At The Children’s School, I couldn’t be happier to work with professionals who are able to find the joy in their everyday routine. Here I have the opportunity to make memorable moments and find fun as I switch between roles and activities throughout the day, and it’s been a challenge more than gladly accepted! As the oldest child of six, I have been working with children for almost as long as I can remember. My work credits include dance instruction, mentoring, and camp counseling of children ages eighteen months through teens, in addition to performing professionally for children and families. Some of my performance highlights include doing shows with Daffy Duck from *The Looney Tunes* cartoons, dancing with Dorothy the Dinosaur from *The Wiggles*, and interviewing young guests on a waffle shop talk show right here in the city. My time at The Children’s School this year has been cut unexpectedly short upon my acceptance of a role as a performer with the Walt Disney Company next semester, but as I work through the company’s college program in Florida, I’ll carry all of the experience I have gotten here at The Children’s School with me. Joining the staff this September allowed me to make some of the standout happy moments of my sophomore year happen with the wonderful faculty, staff, and students I encounter each day. Working with the children has brought many a smile to my face, and from talking superheroes at dismissal to sharing discoveries on the playground, I am so happy to have gotten the opportunity to bring smiles to other people’s faces, too.
Undergraduate Spotlight: Student Teacher Reflections

Kristi Frisch, a student teacher with Mrs. Tomer in the 3’s Program, writes, “Working at the Children’s School has been a wonderful experience. The staff and students have all been extremely welcoming to me. From the first day I arrived, it was obvious that the staff truly care about their students. The students have so many resources available to them, and it has been enlightening to see how these enhance their education. I quickly learned that these students are receiving the best education possible at this school. My experience with my mentor teacher, Mrs. Tomer, has far exceeded my expectations. Working alongside the entire 3’s team has taught me more than I ever expected. Even the children have taught me so much! I will never forget my experience here and I am already sad to be thinking about how my time here is coming to end. I will be forever grateful for the wonderful experience I have had at the Children’s School!”

Katie Bouvy, a student teacher with Mrs. Opferman in the 4’s Program, reflects, “As a senior at Pitt studying Early Childhood and Special Education, I’ve spent 4 years in classrooms across Pittsburgh, but none have come close to giving me the same depth of experience that I’ve received here at The Children’s School. Not only do I learn something every day from the amazing family of educators and advocates here, but also from the children—about art, about play, about how to be a better person. I love the sunny atmosphere of the school, how it allows the students to be confident exploring their environment, and how every step is a teachable moment. William Arthur Ward described educator quality with a comparison, ‘The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.’ Not only do I see our children being inspired by their teachers every day, but I have also been inspired by them. Being placed in such a warm, creative, open, and inspiring setting has helped me feel more confident than ever that teaching is what I was born to do. I’ve deeply appreciated my time with The Children’s School family, and I hope to have the opportunity to return in the future.”

Carolyn Kroll, a student teacher with Mrs. Perovich in the Kindergarten, notes, “It’s hard to believe that my experience in the kindergarten classroom is nearly complete. The last 15 weeks involved hard work, creative planning, evaluations, and - of course - twenty-four bright and enthusiastic children. My experience working with the kindergarten team, the school staff, and the children has been positive and endearing as I anticipate a classroom of my own. Initially, I did not know what to expect. I have to admit that I was a little apprehensive, but the school has been welcoming and the kindergarten team was open to my contributions and lesson ideas. Mrs. Perovich provided appropriate guidance as I worked to develop and implement lessons. She gave me valuable advice and suggestions that I look forward to using in my continuing preparation as an early childhood educator. Just as your children have learned a great deal since September, I too, find myself a more mature, better prepared, and eager pre-service teacher. Together, we all have progressed toward a brighter future. Thank you for supporting me as a student teacher; I am grateful for all of the kindergarten memories.”