

Undergraduate Spotlight:

Elizabeth La (Kindergarten) is a first year student at CMU's Dietrich College, hoping to major in Cognitive Science with a concentration in Psychology and an additional major in Statistics.

"Elizabeth, look at my invisible unicorn! I told her not to follow me to school, but she wouldn't listen..."



Every time I step into the Children's School, I am struck by the level of creativity of my small friends. From the imaginary animals they create, to the masterpieces they build out of Legos, to the picture books they make, the children are all so imaginative and willing to think outside of the box. My favorite part of working at the Children's School is conversing with the friends and asking them questions about their creations, encouraging them to add details to the worlds they have created. Often times, they have no trouble answering questions on the spot, and sometimes even go on little rants about all

the different aspects of their world. This is fascinating to me because back in the real world of college-level classes, my peers and I have often struggled to use creativity in simple tasks such as deciding on group names. In fact, just last week in the student-taught ASL class that I'm taking, a group came up with the name "TBD" during a class activity. "To be determined". Basically meaning, "I have no imagination and am too lazy to think of a name right now, so I'll put it off until later". Then again, my group name was "Left", indicating the side of the room where we were seated, so I guess I should not critique another group's name. If this task was called for here, at the Children's School, I can imagine all the friends raising their hands, faces filled with excitement, eager to share their suggestion for a group name. This contrast is truly remarkable, if not disappointing on the college students' part, for we generally assume that college students perform better than kindergarten students because we have a more developed brain. I believe that by surrounding myself with my kindergarten friends, I not only get to spend time relaxing and interacting with children, just like when I was home in California, but I also use my brain in new ways compared to what college courses require.



New Interns: In addition to our student employees, undergraduate interns taking Dr. Carver's Practicum in Child Development course support our children and teachers in the classroom six hours per week, while also engaging in a seminar with Dr. Carver every Wednesday morning. This semester, we have Yusuf Mehkri (left) in the AM 3's, Lynnette Ramsay in the AM 4's, and Lily Marty and Christine Phang (right) in the Kindergarten.

