Research Spotlight, continued …

The Magnet Game

Undergraduate Benjamin Howe is completing dual thesis as the culmination of his studies in Architecture and Psychology. With the guidance of Dr. Sharon Carver and architecture professor Dale Clifford, he is designing an educational activity that demonstrates the fusion of learning and design principles in order to effectively engage children in exploring magnetism and learning key concepts about magnets. At the Children’s School, Ben will observe children’s engagement with his Magnet Learning Center and do pre- and post-test interviews with children about their knowledge of magnets. As a comparison, half of the children will spend an equal amount of time exploring a popular commercially available magnet toy to see whether those who interact with the toy Ben designs learn more. This research could be beneficial in providing a new educational magnet toy on the market for use in schools or informal settings at museums only if it can be demonstrated that the Magnet Learning Center truly has an educational impact that other magnet toys on the market may not be able to match.

Undergraduate Spotlight

Tyler Dossett is a junior Psychology major at Carnegie Mellon. Tyler writes, “I am always thrilled to go to work at the Children’s School. After I graduate, I plan to use my major and minor to become a children’s drama therapist where I will use acting and the arts to conduct therapy sessions. Working at the Carnegie Mellon Children's School is such a rewarding experience not only because of its wonderful teachers, who are all very passionate about teaching, but also because of the amazing children that I get to work with every week. The Children’s School has such a positive and upbeat aura, and it is always inspiring to see the children so interested in learning and exploring the world around them, especially when I get a chance to participate by reading to them or playing games with them. Every day, I see the children grow so much by learning new skills, such as writing or counting. It is so great to have a part in their development into amazing people.”

Katie Schaefer is a senior education major at Carlow University who is doing a seven-week, full time student teaching experience at the Children’s School. She has joined the Preschool 3’s Team to work with her cooperating teacher, Mrs. Flynn, until Friday, April 6th. For the previous seven weeks, Katie was a 3rd grade student teacher at the Campus School of Carlow University.