Undergraduate Spotlight

My name is Yu Zhao. When I think back about two years to when I first started working at the Children’s School and remember all the children with whom I’ve had the privilege to interact and develop pleasant bonds, I realize that the whole experience of working at an educationally-driven yet laid-back environment has been one of the highlights of my college career. As a senior in the BXA interdisciplinary program for Art & Psychology (as well as an additional science curriculum due to my recent decision to go to dental school), I feel as if the Children’s School has become my second home on campus because of the sheer joy and reward I feel when I help a friend accomplish a certain task or teach him/her the value of being kind to others. I always look forward to working because the presence of every lively child is like a sanctuary from the stressful and demanding workload from school. To be able to have witnessed whole cycles of some of the friends joining us as three year olds and then growing and flourishing into capable and intelligent kindergartners is something so special that not many people besides a young child’s family get to appreciate! Having grown up as an only child, I’ve always wanted a little brother or sister. I feel almost as if each friend at the Children’s School is my sibling who can brighten my day. Being able to work with so many wonderful young children has taught me countless important life lessons about responsibility, patience, and communication.

One of the most amazing things about the Children’s School is the diversity of topics the children get to study at such a young age. From transportation and recycling to dinosaurs and birds, the plethora of ever-changing themes from month to month and the corresponding creative activities involved is not only captivating to the children but also eye-opening for me as well; I wish I knew half as much as these children know when I was their age! The children are like sponges that absorb new material with such open minds. What an enriching sight to behold! I love it when they’ve just studied something they find intriguing and cannot stop telling everyone around them how a certain phenomenon works. Sometimes they relay information in such an innocent yet original way that I cannot hold myself back from laughing. I also enjoy immensely the opportunity I get to plan new activities with the teachers. Being able to offer my input and think of novel ways to help the children explore different subject matter is something that makes me proud. Just like the children always say, “Everyone is a friend.” Working at the Children’s School has taught me a great deal about the value of friendship and the gratification of being able to help others. I know that with whatever I do in the future, I will always look back on my time here with fond memories.