The children were excited to explore our “Building” theme this month! Three’s educators began our exploration with the children by looking at the tools that builders use. After learning safety practices such as wearing safety goggles, friends happily drilled holes in the Makeshop using hand drills and hammered nails in the Discovery Area with different types of hammers and nails.

Next the Three’s teachers supported children’s inquiry around what all buildings need...a strong foundation. The friends built with many, many different kinds of blocks and loose part materials to test their ideas about gravity, balance, and support. Then Three’s friends built many structures to experiment with building up. The children built individually and collaborated to build structures and, in many cases, knock their buildings down. Finally we took a glimpse at animal homes and how animals build their homes.

The children thoroughly enjoyed songs and rhymes during this theme. The children loved the rhythm, motions, and fun counting element of “Johnny Works With One Hammer.” The predictability and rhyming nature of “Humpty Dumpty” was also quite a treat! The children were delighted to test the Humpty Dumpty rhyme using a real egg!

As with all of our units, we use stories and music to guide our teaching. Some books we read included “The Three Little Pigs,” by Paul Galdone, which showed us that a house of bricks is much stronger than a house made of straw. “Not a Box,” by Antoinette Portis was a Three’s favorite, and it helped us use our imaginations to make-believe that wooden blocks were something else, such as a garbage truck or reading glasses. Another favorite read was “Ishi”, by Akiko Yabuki. The main character in “Ishi” is an optimistic rock that works to teach the friends to have a healthy mind. The children have enjoyed creating “Ishis” of their own and decorating houses for their personal pet rocks.

The children continue to be involved in parallel play (individual play next to another child, but not with the other child) and cooperative play in the different learning centers. The friends worked in the dramatic play area, “Mechanic Shop” and of course building in the block area!
PLAY FUELS OUR LEARNING!

Masaki and Dylan posing in front of the large structure they created on top of the Red Room shelf.

Three’s friends build together with colorful hollow blocks!

Chloe using a hand drill to drill a hole in the Makeshop.

Jacob and David using wooden blocks to create unique structures.

Adele posing behind the interesting tower she built.

Nevin builds a tower…and then knocks it down!

Ezra and Kurtis listening to a story being read by our wonderful work study, Margot!
WE HAD A GOOD DAY!

Maisie and Cole safely hammering golf tees in to a burlap covered styrofoam block in the Blue Room.

Ezra displaying his latest play dough creation.

Three's friends are proud of the airplanes they drilled together in the Makeshop.

Three's friends tinkering with Legos in the Makeshop.

Kiley placing shapes on the new light table that Mr. Salinetro created.

Melodie created a special building out of Model Magic and pipe cleaners in the Discovery Area!
MORE FUN AT SCHOOL!

It has been a wonderful October! We want to say “Thank you” to Mrs. Hraber for teaching our dynamic music class! Another big thanks to Facilities Management and Campus Services (FMCS) for delivering the pumpkins that the friends selected, painted, and brought home.

Our next theme is farm! We will learn about local farms and explore what farmers do to help us.

Adele building a wall with small bricks.

Ezra and Will collaborating to construct a castle.

Dylan is careful while he builds at the Red Room table.

Three’s friends peeking through translucent window blocks.

Masaki stacked all of the pieces onto the pegs!

Three’s friends cooperating to move the backpack bin!

Ms. O’Neill Mrs. Loomis Mrs. Armbruster Mr. Salinetro