



Will's Day at The Children's House*

Will arrives at 8:45. He says goodbye to his mom and little brother, says good morning to Miss Sandra, and runs into the garden to greet his friends. After placing his backpack aside, he and Henry build an obstacle course using the tree "cookies," stumps and balance log. They invite

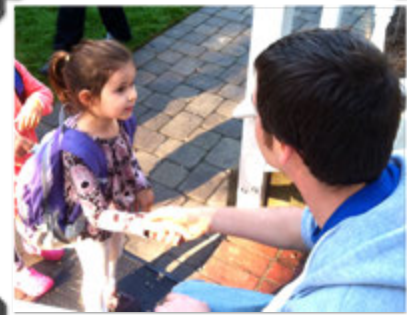
friends to try it out. Afterwards, Henry decides to paint a picture on the outdoor easel and Will joins other kids at the garden where they pick tomatoes. He checks the bird feeder to see if the yardbirds need more seed.

Eventually, Will leaves to see what his other friends are up to. He notices Jonas, Sloane and two other friends building a gravel city in the "truck pit." Lucy is pumping water to use for her painting project. Liam and Allie are playing different outdoor instruments. He sees Alex and Conor building a city with the outdoor blocks and decides to join in.



*Written with the consent of Will's parents, this story represents a typical day at school for Will. It includes descriptions of activities he chose on several different days, paired with pictures from our archives as illustrations. The story represents a typical morning at school.

This is Will's third year at The Children's House. He's almost 5 years old and loves to show younger children how to use materials. So when Lucy needs help with "soap grating," Will jumps right in. Soon, a crowd gathers to watch the lesson.



At 9:15 he hears the handbell. It's time to head inside. Today, Mr. Josh is shaking hands with friends as they enter. Will waits behind Lucy for his turn.

Will hangs up his coat and backpack, and changes into his school slippers. He says goodbye to his friends from The Moon Class and heads into his own classroom—The Sun Class—for morning circle.



After singing the morning greeting and calendar songs, Will's group works on a biome lesson. They focus on land forms: islands, archipelagos, isthmuses and peninsulas.

After circle at 9:45, it's independent work time. Will is learning to read. His favorite activity these days is making words using interchangeable tiles on "the blue board."



He works for 30 minutes and is ready for a break. He puts his work away and wanders around the classroom. He sees Liam listening to a book and Lila working with magnets. Lucy and Simone are playing a counting game. Abby is having an addition lesson with Miss Catherine.



He finds a few friends working on bird activities. He joins Audrey who is coloring pictures of yardbirds. When they complete all eight pictures, they'll each make a book to take home. Will spends 15 minutes coloring two birds before deciding to take a break. He stops by the birdcall listening station, but Liam is using it. It's not available right now, so he moves on.



It's almost 10:40. Will sees Peyton serving herself snack—cheese sticks and pretzels. He realizes he's hungry. There's an empty spot at the snack table, so he serves himself and joins her.

When he finishes, he puts his plate and glass in the bin for dirty dishes. He notices the bin is full, so he and Cole carry it to the kitchen where they load the dirty dishes into the dishwasher. Across the room, Ella is putting a load of dirty hand towels into the washing machine. (The kitchen work is always teacher supervised.)



After he's finished cleaning up, he heads over to the math area where he sees Gabe working on multiplication. Conor, who has just learned to count to 10, is working on a matching puzzle. Alex is using the Golden Decimal Beads. Miss Elizabeth sees Will looking around and asks if he wants a lesson. She knows he's ready to work with the Colored Teen Beads. They work together for about 10 minutes before Will decides he wants to try something else.



He stops by a group working with Miss Jenn. They're taking turns using the apple peeler. The apples will be cut and cooked for tomorrow's snack: applesauce.



He wanders past Simone painting at the easel and sees Jack working on handwriting. Audrey is using the continent puzzle, but Will doesn't see anything that draws his attention.



He spends a few minutes using the polygon tray, then knows what he really wants to do: make more words on "the blue board!" He heads back to where he started his morning.

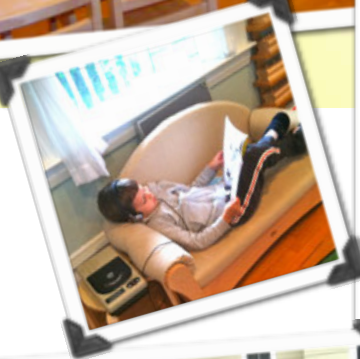


Nearly 35 minutes later, Cole stops by to tell him his exciting news: an activity they want to do together is available! For the last 15 minutes of the morning, Will and Cole use one of the biome mats. It shows land, water and air. The children sort transportation objects on it: a ship is placed on the sea; a fire truck goes on the land; a hot air balloon floats in the air (but eventually lands on land).

At 12:15, it's time for Will to go home. He won't stay for Lunch Bunch today.



He changes into his outdoor shoes and jacket, puts on his backpack and waits for a teacher to take him to the gate. Along with his mom and little brother, his big sister is waiting for him—she has a half-day at her elementary school. A teacher signs him out and Will joins his family for lunch and an afternoon at home before he returns tomorrow.



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