



Preschool Daily Learning Story

Building Blocks Preschool

February 5, 2020



Birthdays can be very exciting for young children. Celebrating them provides an opportunity to fulfill love and belonging, which is a core human need. Belongingness is the sense of being comfortable with and connected to others that results from receiving acceptance, respect, and love. Connectedness or belongingness, in turn, promotes learning. As we began this school year, a teacher decided to explore how to create meaningful birthday traditions and use them to build a classroom community where we really get to know each other and form connections about how our actions effect others. One way we do this is by gathering a small group of peers we call The Birthday Group to

celebrate the birthday child by making a thoughtful gift. Birthday groups are intentionally gathered and are formed like parts of a great soup: a scoop of close friends, a dash of potential new friends, and stir in a multiage experience.

Today we celebrated Briana's 4th birthday. Briana shared her home-school connection piece with the group telling us that she loves cats, dogs, lions, cheetahs, butterflies, unicorns, sharks, and animals in the sea. Briana also shared that she loves her new house, ballet, and playing music. Lastly, Briana shared that she is so excited to have a baby brother, and cannot wait to feed him a bottle and put him to bed. The other children in the birthday group then had the opportunity to ask Briana some follow up questions and gather more information. Teagan wondered if Briana liked rainbows, Briana nodded her head, 'yes.' Then Mercy began to ask Briana about puppies and the name of her puppy at home. Briana responded, "I don't have a puppy, just a kitty. I do like puppies though." Briana also shared that her favorite colors are blue and pink.



Briana then left the room so that the birthday group could brainstorm some ideas. Immediately, Mer-

cy decided she wanted to make Briana a butterfly. After discussing it some more, the children decided that making Briana some butterfly wings was going to be the perfect gift.





Ms. Megan found some perfect pink and blue fabric to use to make the wings. The children then worked individually with Ms. Megan to decorate and design their own butterfly to add to the wings. We used a variety of colors to decorate our butterflies. Amelia asked, "Can I have all the colors? Briana said she likes rainbows, I want to make a rainbow butterfly!" After everyone had the opportunity to add their butterfly to the wings, Ms. Megan cut out the wing shape and added the straps.

Briana was invited back into the studio to receive her gifts. Teagan presented Briana with her birthday cake, and pointed out the rainbow drawings. Fiona and Mercy then presented Briana with her butterfly wings, and she immediately



asked to put them on! Briana thanked all of her friends and was excited to have her friends sing 'Happy Birthday' to her.

