

The Project Approach:

A Restaurant Study



Conducted by the Green Room
Children

Spring 2019

Deciding on a new study:

In the beginning of the spring semester, the teachers were carefully watching the children's play while in the classroom.

They noticed that many children became interested in playing "restaurant" in dramatic play. Every day a group of children would build a restaurant using hollow blocks. They would set up a cash register and ask people what they would like to order. They would call out numbers for their customers when their order was ready.

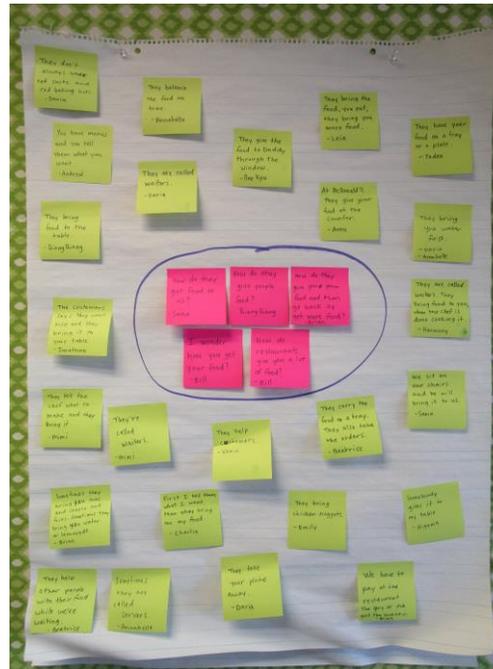
Equally, the teachers noticed that many children would spend a lot of their time watching the birds at our bird feeders by our big Green Room window.



Based on the children's interests, the teachers decided to vote on our new study.

Phase One: Gathering Prior Knowledge

It's a restaurant because it has food. Mimi



The children brainstormed ideas about everything they knew about restaurants. Teachers wrote their ideas on sticky notes then grouped them together based on similar experiences.

Phase Two: Investigation



Have you ever been to a restaurant?



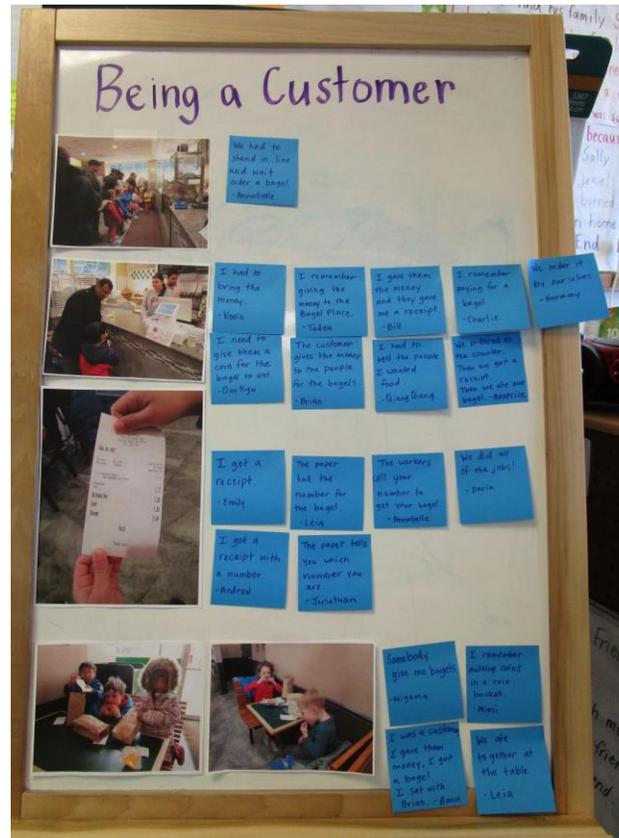
Green Room children were asked a series of questions about restaurants. First, the teachers asked if they have ever been to a restaurant. Then they were asked the name of the restaurant, how do they get their food, and what kind of food they like to order. The teachers created a large classroom chart to record their data.

Next, the children conducted a survey asking other children in different classrooms, “Have you ever been to a restaurant?”

Field experiences and Experts



The Bagel Place



For our first restaurant experience, teachers chose a restaurant where the workers called out numbers when their order was ready (similar to their play in the classroom). Children independently ordered and paid for a bagel.

The next day, they were able to recall their experience of being a customer.



The Diner on campus

Next, the children took a tour of The Diner on campus. College students toured the children around and showed them how they got food “buffet style”.



Banana Blossom Bistro



The Green Room was able to take a “behind the scenes” tour of the Banana Blossom Bistro.

A Full Service Experience at Denny's



The Green Room children were customers again at a “sit down” restaurant.

Experts



The Green Room children interviewed college students who had restaurant jobs.



They created a list of questions they had for restaurant workers. The children asked their questions to every expert, recorder their answers, and created a classroom book based on their findings.



Restaurant



Play



The children role played being customers, hosts, servers, cashiers, chefs, prep cooks, and bussers. Teachers added new props and materials to dramatic play when children learned about a new restaurant job.

They took their jobs VERY seriously!

Phrase Three: Culmination

After weeks of investigation, we are now ready to open up our own restaurant!









