THE EXPLORING BOULDER GAME
During the 2018-2019 school year, the children and teachers in the Prekindergarten classroom enjoyed playing board games together. The children were inspired by the creation of a child-friendly map, a project initiated by Growing Up Boulder and extended to the community of Boulder. When comparing the map of the city to a board game, the children recognized many visual similarities. From this they developed the idea to create their own game, based on exploring Boulder, with the sole objective of, “going to the place you want to go.” Children and teachers set out to four popular destinations around Boulder to explore and decide if the locations should be included in the game. Throughout the process, the children discussed different modes of transportation, various community members, and what it means to be a community.
"We take the 204 bus."

“What?! We have no seatbelts?”
“It’s great that we don’t have to have them on the bus.”

“Buses can actually carry hundreds of people.”

“Sometimes it takes a long time for the bus to come.”

“The bus talks to tell us what’s coming up.”
“Biking is faster than walking.”
“And you aren’t on your feet.”

“You use gears.”
“What are gears?”
“They make you go faster or slower.”
“I don’t have gears on my bike. My bike is really cool because it is electric. I don’t have to peddle. I just sit there. There’s a button that makes me go fast and slow instead of gears.”

“And you have brakes. They make you stop.”
“To stop when you’re walking, you just stop your feet.”
“On my bike, I have to grab the brakes with my hands.”

“If you can’t walk, you can go in a wheelchair.”
“When I am riding in a car, I get to see all of the great things go by as I look out the window. It’s so pretty.”
“I even saw a rainbow!”

“Sometimes we go the squirrely way. It has lots of turns.”

“On a scooter, you get to be outside instead of inside a car. I like to wear my helmet when I ride my scooter or bike to protect my head. That way, if I fall, I don’t crack my head open. You don’t have to wear one in the car though.”
“You can’t really fly a plane around Boulder, but you can go to the airport.”

“You go a lot faster in a plane.”

“Planes carry the most people.”
“When a whole bunch of people come together and walk together.”

“We care about stuff in our community. We take care of our bus stop. We take care of our classroom. We take care of each other.”

“A community is when you share.”

“When you listen to other people.”
“We go on field trips to learn about more things of Boulder.”
“There are street lights and traffic lights.”
“The traffic lights tell cars to stop, go and slow.”
“Street lights help us see at night. Sometimes they look like faces. That one looks sad.”

“We can look at some things with our eyes, and some things with our hands in stores.”

“Water comes out of the holes in the summer.”
“You can go in with your clothes or your bathing suit.”
“You can get on the animals and play hide and seek.”
“There is a snail, racoon, frog and bunny. Actually, the racoon is a beaver.”

“Jump to a rock without touching the floor!”
“You can pretend that the blue is water and the yellow is hot lava.”
“You can go under the bridge and hide.”
“There’s a clock right there, so you know what time it is.”
“It dings – ding, dong, ding, ding, ding, dong.”

“The flowers are here to make Pearl Street beautiful.”
“We have to walk across the bridge to get to the library.”

“Sometimes there are ducks in the water.”
“So we can find feathers near the water.”

“It doesn’t seem scary to walk on the rocks. But the water is cold.”
“There’s a playground.”

“I love that playground.”

“We can hold hands down the slide.”

“It’s a fast slide because it starts way up there. You have to cross the creaky bridge. It wiggles a lot but it doesn’t scare any of us. Only babies maybe because there are holes in the bottom.”
“This is a book about cats. I love cats!”

“You need a library card to take books home.”
“Library cards have money on them.”

“We put the books on this cart when we’re done reading them.”
“You could actually just lie down and dream about this space. When you wake up, you’re there!”
“That would be a superpower!”

“Look at the deer!”
“There are 6 of them.”
“Another one is walking over. Now there are 8.”
“Another one is coming.”
“Now there’s 9.”

“We have to get a big rock to make a big enough vibration to get to the ducks. The vibration is getting fainter and fainter and fainter.”
“This feels like a real treat!”

“There’s a rocket ship and 2 structures to climb on.”
“I made it almost to the top of the rocket ship. I could see about 30 feet. I could see the mountains and a little bit out of the city.”

“There are even big girls’ swings!”
“The swings let you go really high.”
“I want to go down to the stream and throw dandelions in.”

“Maybe we could tape the sticks together to catch a fish.”

“I like throwing things in the water. It’s one of my favorite things to do.”
1. Start at the Boulder Journey School symbol.

2. Roll the dice to move around the board.

3. When you land on a “Community Helper” square, pick a card from the pile.

4. When you land on a location, scan the code.

5. Go around as many times as you want, trying to land on each location.
Aeneas  Juniper
Alexis    Kai
Bennett   Landon
Brady     Lexi
Caleb     Mackenzie
Cyrus     Madigan
Emily     Micah
Eugene    Natalie
Hadley    Nico
Harlow    Oliver
Jemma     RuiAn
Joey      Sven
          Will