Snake Encounter

What happens when 28 children and a ball python meet each other?

“He just tickled my nose!”
(Oliver leaned forward and the snake touched Ollie’s nose with his tongue)
Eneko: “It’s ticklish.”
“He’s warm.”

“Why doesn’t the snake squeeze you when it’s a snake that squeezes?”

Sophia: “Around his mouth is red because it’s blood from his prey.”
Lucy: “He’s pretty squishy.”
Holland: “He’s sticky on the bottom.”
Patrick: “He’s a squiggle!” “Look, an ‘S,’ now a ‘Z!’”
Alex: “This snake is soft! He wants to go where he wants to go.” (said as snake trying to slither off table)


Mr. Ryan estimated the snake’s length to be 2 ½ feet. Helen wanted to see if Jorge would fit on the track she had made so Ms. Mary decided to try and measure him.
We measured Jorge with a tape measure. He wiggled a lot but we think he is 26 inches long.

The children began to wonder how long Jorge would get. We looked on the internet and discovered that he would grow to be 36” long.

The children continued to observe Jorge as they planned a snake playground. Jorge kept trying to slither off the table, so we decided to see where he would go…
The snake hid behind a bulletin board. Mr. Ryan asked the students if they could get the snake if they were predators. Zoey said, “but snakes are predators.”
Snake Playground

Earlier in the week Sophia had begun to design a home for the snake. Helen decided to add to the home by building a playground. On Friday Helen and Sophia began construction with the help of some friends…

The children made tunnels because they had observed that Jorge liked to get in small places.

We let Jorge explore his new home. The students came to the conclusion that his playground should be larger and have walls to keep him confined.
Construction continued, with the help of many friends. Here Sophia is working on a house.

Holland worked on a hammock for Jorge.
Jorge enjoyed his new play area, but the walls were not high enough.

The students anxiously wait for the snake, predicting where it will go...
Jorge kept moving towards Alex; Ms. Mary wondered if he might smell another animal on Alex’s clothes.

The children were sad when Jorge had to go back to home.

Goodbye Jorge!