

# *Newsletter - Issue no. 11*

early  
years



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



## The importance of Parent involvement

Preschool years are one of the most impactful times in a child's life. Children consciously and sub-consciously grasp many values during this period of their age. Home and Preschool are where they spend most of their time and where they would learn the most from. Growing to find both the Preschool and parent working together in harmony and exchanging trust can result in wholesomely developed and confident child.

**"Parent involvement"** is the active participation of the parent in the child's life in learning environment, where regular and continuous engagement into what is happening and finding the enjoyment in actively listening and taking part in what happens at the preschool. Parents involvement can be seen in;

- **Two-way communication** between parents and the preschool as; formal meetings or daily meet and greet opportunities, newsletter, and communication app and exchanging ideas or activities with teacher and managers.
- **Parents engagement** with preschool events; by consistent attendance to events or preparing for the event along with the child and the preschool as volunteering to read for your child's class, go on a field trip or make an activity with them.
- **Extending the learning experience** beyond the preschool environment and working along the preschool in discussing and expanding the children vocabulary and knowledge about the Theme they are exploring, practicing show & tell activity, bringing a picture from the internet for your child to share with their peers about the topic, letter or shape they are learning.
- **Parenting classes or course** offered by the preschool to support parents
- **Creating a bigger community** to develop a school culture





**Parent's involvement** has profound influence on the child's learning experience and future encounters with education. Children who grow to see their parents comfortable joining their preschool/school experience develop ease and confidence going through their education years. Research proved that this confidence extends to the child educational attainment.

Parents who are actively involved in their child's preschool years; improves child school readiness, reduces child behavior problems, enhances child social skills, and promotes academic success.

We encourage parents to take to opportunity of the smoother structure of preschool years setting and be as involved as possible in what happens in their child day.

We know the high demand on parents nowadays and how busy life is; so make use of the event calendar and plan the day you will spend at the preschool or the event costume you will create together or which day your volunteer to read in your child's class.

Take the time to hang their work on the fridge at home, or on the bedroom door as a discussion opener for what happens at preschool everyday. This will give allow your child a confident start for school.



### Resources:

1. Đurišić, M. and Bunijevac, M. (2017). **Parental Involvement as a Important Factor for Successful Education.** Parental Involvement as a Important Factor for Successful Education, [online] 7(3), pp.137–153. Available at: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1156936.pdf>.
2. Bierman, K.L, Morris, P.A., Abenavoli, R.M. (2017). **“Parent Engagement Practices Improve Outcomes for Preschool Children.”** Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Pennsylvania State University



### What we've been learning

Caterpillars have been learning things around them such as different kinds of clothes, how to get them clean and ready to wear.

We focused on the names of our clothes specially the ones we wear in the winter (jacket, boots, hat, dress, pants, shoes, gloves, scarf)

We also brought new things to the class, and we did the project of washing machine. The kids had the opportunity to enjoy the role play of washing the laundry and hang them on the drying rack and iron the clothes on the ironing board.



### Upcoming themes

Caterpillars are continuing to learn things around them (food, class tools). We are going to focus on the names of different vegetables and fruits which we use them daily (Tomato, potato, carrot, cucumber, lemon, pepper, banana, orange, apple, grapes, strawberry).

How do we clean, wash, and cut them to be ready for eating. We are going to explore the taste of different citrus and how to cook pizza and squeeze oranges to drink orange juice. We will make a collection of different crafts.





## Busy Butterflies



### What we've been learning

Starting from the beginning of January, the *Butterflies* have been discussing their facial features and body parts and the usage of each part, like **hands for holding, helping and playing** and **mouth for eating, talking, and singing**.

They counted their body parts; 2 eyes, 1 nose...etc and sang songs related to the topic and did actions accompanying the songs. In addition to the star shape, they were introduced to the circle shape and can now identify it, sing its describing song, produce it using different methods, like **printing, stamping, painting and drawing**, and sort items and toys according to the two shapes.

They have been showing progress in their self-help skills as they can now unzip their jackets and zip it with little help, hang them by their bags and they can all take off their shoes alone. They are working on wearing their shoes alone as well as being independent in hands washing.

### Upcoming themes

Up until mid-February, they will be working on recognizing the happy, sad, scared and angry emotions and hopefully they will be able to identify their own and verbalize them as well as using their limbs and mouth for the correct usage. Academically, they will continue working on counting up to 5 items, recognizing the yellow, red and blue colors and being introduced to the Heart shape.



## Bumble Bees



### Upcoming themes

*Bees* are continuing to learn the things related to their body organs. We will learn that we have a heart and feelings, and **listen to our heartbeat, the nose, and lungs to breathe.**

We will discover more about our 5 senses such as taste (**Sweet, bitter, sour, salty**), smell (**nice smell and disgusting**).

The final two weeks of this time we will learn all about our home; rooms and furniture. We will compare furniture items with geometric shapes and will learn opposite words such as big and small, long, and short, hot and cold (**oven and refrigerator**).

Will discover that the oven we need to cook the food (be ready to eat), and the refrigerator to keep the food cold to not expire.

### What we've been learning

During the past few weeks, we talked about our body parts. How to care about our body; we made the project of teeth and hands with long nails and practiced how to brush teeth and trim the nails. We have been learning about our family members and their names and most children can respond with the name of their parents and siblings, YAY!!!

We are now exploring the world with our Five Senses, practicing using our hands for touch to describe texture (**soft, hard, rough, fluffy, sticky, crinkly, squishy**) and recognise the hidden object.

The children's vocabulary improved, and they are now using words such as; **head, face, eyes, mouth, teeth, lips, chin, face, ears, cheeks, neck, hair, forehead, arm, hand, hip, leg, toes** to talk about their bodies. They are learning the use of every part.

### You can ask them those questions at home to extend the learning to the home;

- Why do we need a nose? **To smell a flower.**
- Why do we need hands? **To touch the objects, and it feels; fluffy, rough, soft, hard, crinkly, squishy, sticky.**
- Why do we need eyes? **To see all around.**
- Why do we need a tongue? **To taste the food, and tastes; bitter, sweet, sour & salty.**
- Why do we need ears? **To listen to music and sounds and it sound; loud or soft or noisy.**







### What we've been learning

For the past few weeks, we were discussing "Animals in the world", starting with the arctic animals like seals, snow owls and arctic foxes. We moved to Jungle animals and learned how elephants use their trunks, and how ostriches hide their heads in the sand.

We also recognized cheetahs, rhinos, tigers, crocodiles, monkeys, and giraffes, Zebras and talked about their skin patterns. We talked about their habitats and what they eat. We started learning the letter sounds and we are beginning to identify the letter S.

We focused on numerals 1-5 and practiced counting till 10.

### Upcoming themes

We are continuing with our animals' theme, moving to the farm setting with all the animals, and their offspring and finishing the theme with pets and how we care for them. We will start working on letters A and T and focus on numbers 5,6 and 7 and the shapes of diamonds and rectangles.







## What we've been learning

The spiders have been learning about the Family members "Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt, cousin". Also every child introduced his family to his friends. They had fun counting their Family members, singing and dancing on family songs and making Family trees with their Family members pictures. They also practiced using their five senses. They learned different textures like "soft, rough, crumbled, hard, fluffy, sticky" and had fun feeling these textures. They were very excited tasting "honey, salt, jalapeno, lemon, turmeric" and learned "sweet, sour, spicy, bitter, salty"



### In Math:

We covered numbers 8,9,10 and we practiced counting them on our fingers, and also we practiced counting family members till 10.

### In Phonics:

We covered e, h and their sounds and we learnt lots of things that begin with these letters, moreover we traced them on laminated sheets.



### Upcoming themes:

We are continuing with "All about me" and we will continue learning everything in my home and my favorites, the childrens will be able to express everything they like and prefer for instance their favorite "color, animal, meal, hobby, feeling, friend, carton, etc...".

We will start a new theme which is "Outer space", the kids will learn facts about each planet and they will sing beautiful songs about planets.

### In Phonics:

We will continue in phase two and we will cover these letters r, m, d.

### In Math:

We will cover these numbers 11 and 12 and will practice counting till 12.







## What we've been learning

For the past few weeks Dragonflies have been learning all about dinosaurs. (T-rex, triceratops, stegosaurus and brachiosaurus) we knew their habitat, which is herbivore and carnivore and we did a lot of craft and dinosaur painting activities.

In circle time we talk about emotions and they pick whether they (excited, happy, tired or sad) and what they feel everyday so they can have a conversation with their friends and know more about each other's interests.

## In Phonics

We covered letter e from jolly phonics set 2 and we are still doing more activities for set 1 (s, t, a, i, p).

## In Math

We do size ordering activities, shapes and size sorting and counting activities from 1 to 15.

## Upcoming themes

We will continue learning more about dinosaurs.

And to support good behavior and help kids make good choices we will award kids "caught being good".

Teacher give tickets to kids they recognize as being good in many ways such as being on time, helping others in the classroom or outside in garden and courtyard time, listening to instructions, working well in groups, and accepting to share and respect others. and at the end of every week we will pick a name from our "caught being good" box and the winner receives a certificate and a special surprise for making good choices for the whole week.



# Upcoming Events

**Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>** Pancake Race (Parents Event)

**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Egypt Day (Parents Event)

**Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>** Mother's Day



Please note that not all kids are pictured during the activities yet  
this doesn't mean they didn't share in the practising...