

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 1

the RED GROUP

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❁ Back to School ❁

We all had a wonderful welcome to the new school year. The children were all happy and excited to see each other.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO...

Smartkids' general theme this year is "Special Values and Attitudes"

and how they impact us in our learning and development. The first term is all about

"RESPECT". We talked about respecting:

- My School and My Group
- My Body and the Five Senses + Health and Hygiene
- Emotions and Feelings
- My Family

In the Five Senses theme, the children had fun exploring different food flavors, smells, and

textures. The children became more aware of their body and

senses and how they can use them in different ways.

Emotions and feelings theme is one of the group's favorites! We learnt to recognize

different emotions through facial expressions. We also learnt how to deal with them and to respect other's emotions. By now, we have noticed significant changes in their emotional and social development. Well done!

Currently, we are talking about respecting "Nature and the Environment". More exciting activities are planned throughout the year.



1-2-3-4-5... High Five!

The Red Group started the year with five children: Aidan, Emma, Julie, Liliana and Tiffany.



As the children are getting older, more challenging activities will be expected throughout the year - these activities are carefully planned to meet children's needs for their holistic development.





Beach set-up



Building a bridge



Liliana asks questions about the book



Adding numbers

Different areas: different skills

Construction Area

This area enhances children's imagination as they learn to build and create different models using different construction toys (e.g. lego, building bricks, soft/ wooden blocks, Bob the builder tools). Most of the time, they improvise during their play.

Home Corner/Role play Area

Home corner play gives children the opportunity to act out the home environment while assisting them to develop social and language skills. This area supports both individual and cooperative play.

Puzzles and Games Area

Children are never too young to start learning math skills. Counting, sorting and even working with puzzles are all important first steps to develop a solid base to learn math. Working with puzzles and games also enhances concentration skills.

Math Area

As the children's interest in math is growing, we set up a Math area for them to work more on numbers. They learn to count with one to one correspondence and to recognize the numbers. They also do simple addition and subtraction in a fun way.

Sensory and Malleable Area

This area provides children appropriate activities for sensory play and learning. As we talk about what they are observing and sensing, we give them new language tools to connect with these more familiar sensory tools, building language as well as supporting cognitive



concepts specific to the experience.

Creative Area

One way of encouraging children's creativity and imagination is through arts and crafts; where they can also develop self-expression. Children are given a variety of materials to choose from to create their art.



Listening Area

Children can practice their "listening and comprehension" in this area.

Audiobooks are available for them which also help them with their imagination and sound recognition as they are guided when to flip the pages.



Writing Area



Reading Area



Aside from our theme-based activities, we also talk about some celebrations or special events during the year. During some of these, the Red Group and Blue group join together for more excitement and fun.

On September 12th, we all wore our 'ao dai' or chinese costumes to celebrate the Moon Festival. The children demonstrated their dancing skills as they did their own dragon dances. They also enjoyed cooking moon cakes.

On September 19th, we celebrated "Talk like a Pirate Day". The children were all keen on doing the 'Treasure Hunt' - they 'read' some clues and followed the map that lead to the treasure chest.



The Red Group and Blue Group join together in some activities. The children in both groups are all happy to play and work with each other. On Thursdays, all the Big Kids swim together and have lunch together. They also join together during afternoon activities where they work in their activity books and play some group and lotto games.

Both Big Kids groups went on an excursion to Smartkids Tran Ngoc Dien, which was full of excitement and fun. They liked the school with its big play area, climbing house, new toys and resources.

On the 4th of November, we celebrated International Day. It was nice to see some children wearing their own clothes from different countries. They had fun making their flags and talking about their country.

Parent-Teacher meetings will be on November 21st - 25th.

Starting November 7th, we are going to begin Jolly Phonics. Children will learn one sound every week, which will be introduced on Mondays. During Wednesdays, children can bring things from home that start with the 'sound of the week' for Show and Tell (e.g. toys, books)

Jolly Phonics

Fun with letter sounds! Teaching phonics to young children is the first educational step on the road to reading. Phonics is learning to comprehend how letters and sounds come together to create words.