



SmartKids Street 10 talk

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Encouraging independence in order for your child to grow in confidence

Research has shown that children who are raised to be independent are: **higher achievers, more motivated, more self-confident, and have a higher self-esteem.**

It is important for parents and educators to work together to encourage independence both at home and at school.

At SmartKids, throughout the day, we provide opportunities for children to do things by themselves.

And it starts with each task that are part of the children's routine.

For example, after painting or playing at the messy table, we ask children to wash their hands.

When a child is still young or new to SmartKids (and isn't familiar with our routine), we might have to physically help him with that task: guiding him to the bathroom, showing him how to pour some soap in one hand, how to rinse his hands, dry them off and throw the tissue he used in the bin.

After a few days/weeks repeating this same task, we encourage the child to do it on his own with only verbal guidance from us.

This process helps children to **think for themselves, understand the purpose of the things around them/how to use them** (awareness and understanding of the world), the **appropriate behavior** to have in each situation of their routine, **language** and **confidence**.

At SmartKids, we look at children individually even in a group situation. We look at where each of them are at in the development: therefore we adjust **the expectations we have from each of them, the way we talk to them** but we always look for ways to **lift them up to a higher level of independence**.

How to follow that up at home?

- Have the same expectations of your child at home than the teachers at school.

For example, if your child is able to put his shoes on by himself at school, let him also do it by himself when he's with you, or encourage him to.

- Tell your child what you are doing when you help him with a task.
- After a few weeks, lift your child up to doing the task by himself.

The importance of role modeling: children love to copy what we do! If you would like your child to sit nicely at the table for meals, provide a time when you can have a meal with him, role modeling what he needs to do.

Keep in mind that it is very normal if your child struggles or fails handling some personal tasks by himself, remember to still praise him for trying!!!!



CHUC MUNG NAM MOI - HAPPY NEW YEAR OF THE HORSE

We have had such a busy last couple of months at Street 10: new children joining the Yellow group, a growing Parent child group, many events and celebrations!

We also went from our "I am unique" theme (term 1) to our "We are curious" theme (term 2).

In early December, we've had the visit from the other SmartKids' kiddies groups. Some exciting activities were prepared to host our friends: water balloons, hopscotch, face-painting, spa, nail polishing and many more. The Street 10 children seemed proud to be able to show their friends around!

For our Christmas party, we had invited a very special guest: Santa Claus himself!!!

The children and their parents had a meaningful time with him and our morning was filled with emotions! We have some brave children in the group as they each got close to him to receive a gift and a hug!

Santa also came to spend some time with our Parent Child group for the 1st time!

In order to introduce the children to this new year of the Horse, in January, we've had the visit of 3 ponies that they got to groom and ride!!! An experience they will remember and that they still talk about!

Later in January, we went to SmartKids Tran Ngoc Dien to enjoy a Dragon Dance!

All our events and activities provided good opportunities for the children to develop their natural curiosity, explore and learn! They were also challenged to try new things and get over their fears (of approaching Santa/a pony/watch a Dragon dance). With the support of their teachers, they each showed their ability to overcome any anxiety!



PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS ARE COMING UP!!!

Our second session of **Parent/Teacher meetings** will be held from March 10th-14th.

The purpose of these meetings is for you to hear how your child is doing in his class, the progress he has been making and the points we are working on with him everyday.

Ms. Kasia & Ms. Claire will also answer any questions you may have.

Remember that **we do not allow children to be present during these meetings**, so please arrange for them to go home if the meeting is scheduled after school hours or after your child's program.



PARENT CHILD GROUP FUN

Our Parent Child group has been quite busy and popular over the past few months!

Each week we welcome about 45 children with their moms/dads!

This group is open to children from 1-3 years old together with mom & dad! Both our outside and inside spaces provide stimulating age appropriate activities that encourage all the different areas of your child's development!

This group has also proven to be an easy way to introduce children to a school environment & routine and has made the settling in process easier for the children who ended up joining SmartKids! And quite a few did!



Santa with the Parent child group



THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS

I would like to thank you all for contributing to the Christmas of the children of the BE THO orphanage!!

The children felt very happy and special when they received all the nice toys and clothing items that you donated!!

They had an amazing Christmas celebration!

If you are still interested in giving from time to time, I am collecting things for the children all year long!

Thank you again for your support and generosity!



The orphans at their Christmas party