



SmartKids Thao Dien Talk

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Chuc Mung Nam Moi / Happy New Year



We hope that the year of the snake brings you good health and happiness. The children enjoyed the lead up to Tet and were engaged in the dragon dance; as they were very well prepared by their teachers and learned about the significance of certain cultural foods, traditions and stories, and practiced their own dragon dancing and singing.



After School Activities and Parent-Child Group

We have introduced our after school activities in all our locations, for children from 3 to 6 years old (from 15.15 to 16.45). On Tuesday in Thao Dien, Wednesday in Tran Ngoc Dien and Thursday in street nr 10. We will continue with the after school activities in term 3; reserve a space for your child already now!

In term 3 we have a special offer for SmartKids children: 15us\$ per session!

We are offering a Parent-Child Group in our "Street nr 10, Riverside" location on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings for children (from 1 to 3 years old) and their parents (from 08.30 to 10.00).

The group is lead by one of the SmartKids teachers or the Street 10 location manager. It's a good introduction for children and parents to understand the SmartKids philosophy, where children learn through play. The children are making new friends to play with. Parents are sharing the challenges of parenthood and living in a new country. The location manager can help you with questions you might have about your child's development. We charge 100.000vnd per session, including refreshments for parents and children. No registration is needed. You can just come and enjoy.

Parent Teacher Meetings

(week of 18th-22nd of March)

From the 18th to the 22nd of March you can make an appointment with your child's teacher to talk about the development of your child. This is a great opportunity if you have any questions or any concerns about your child. Please watch the signing-in sheets on your child's class door or on the class notice board. These meetings are without children. It's not appropriate that your child plays in the class while you have a meeting with the teacher. Please arrange a baby sitter.

Communication and Language Development

New words have been emerging amongst the children's vocabulary recently and they have been communicating well with one another to express their interests and desires, or share their emotions. Young children acquire language through interaction in their immediate environment, and through responding to sounds, sentences and experiences expressed by their parents, family and other carers. They begin by absorbing, listening and then imitating and practising. As their responses are reinforced by the adults and/or children around them they learn to reproduce sounds and words and establish an understanding of how language works. Each new experience extends language skills and vocabulary and children gain an understanding about their own language and culture, but also knowledge and comprehension of the world around them.

It may sound as though they are getting things wrong sometimes, but listen carefully to see how children are interpreting what is going on around them.

How to support your toddler's Language Development?

Whether your child is a late talker or an early one, you can help build his /her language skills and toddler vocabulary with simple language of your own.

A few tips:

- Avoid baby talk. Speak clearly and simple, using real words and complete sentences.
- As you go about your day with your child, talk about what he/she and you are doing: "We will go with the car to the supermarket to do some shopping". "Let's see; what do we need for snack/breakfast?". "I am going to cut this apple so that we can eat it for snack ". We call this in SmartKids **a language bath**; you inform your child continuously about what you are doing or what is happening by talking to him/her.
- Repeat your child's words and expand on them. If he/she replies "App-uh!" to your remark about slicing an apple; answer, "Yes, this is an apple! We are going to eat this for snack".
- Spend lots of time reading to your child. Books with rhyming words are ideal for a toddler's language development; rhymes help young children distinguish individual sounds and part of words. Singing songs are wonderful as well.
- Two-sided conversations are a good way to boost language development, because they help toddlers practice their new skills. So, pose questions that require more than a yes or a no answer. "Can you tell me what you did this morning? What toys did you play with?" In this way your child can use his/her vocabulary. Avoid pressuring your child to give a reply if he/she is not ready or able to give an answer.

(adapted from:<http://what to expect.com/toddler-development>)

