



# Tran Ngoc Dien Talk

## A New Year



It has been a wonderful start to a new year at SmartKids Tran Ngoc Dien. We noticed big changes in the children returning this year after their long holiday break and they have been very generous and welcoming to all the new children who have commenced this term at SmartKids.

### Welcome

In the Green group, we have welcomed Conrad, Sebastian, Kate, Myla, Leonor, Henry, David, Nicolas and Eloise. We have also welcomed some new staff Ms Laney and Ms Phuong, and Ms Kasia from our Riverside location.

In the Yellow group, Juan Pablo, Philippa, and Amalie have started this term together with new staff Ms Uyen from our Riverside location, and Ms Christina. Ms Ulrikka, a new teacher on staff has also spent some time with the yellow group.

Ms Helen has commenced as teacher with the Blue Group (to replace Ms Milette) together with Ms Thanh who moved from the Thao Dien location.



## A message from Ms Yoko

SmartKids is growing!

As you can see in the groups, we have new children every week. We have also introduced our after school activities in Tran Ngoc Dien and are currently running a parent-child group in our Street 10 "Riverside" location on Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings.

I would also like to inform you that SmartKids has a Facebook page. Should you wish to be part of this, please let us know your Facebook contact details and we will invite you into our small network.

We look forward to welcoming you, and I look forward to a great year.

*Joke Otter-Van Zuijlen* General Director

### 'Exploring Our World'

Throughout the year the children will be focusing on the theme of 'Exploring Our World' and their place in the world.

Each term will focus on different aspects of this theme. Through various activities and experiences, the children have enjoyed exploring the theme for Term One: 'Me and My World'. They have learnt about their bodies and the senses, what they like/dislike, textures, emotions and feelings, their families and friends, and who is in our school community.

In September, the children celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival dressing up in their Ao Dais, making lanterns, and tasting some Moon cakes. The Big Kids celebrated with Big Kids from all locations at our Riverside location. In early October, we celebrated the SmartKids 6th birthday with birthday songs, ice-cream! And some special gifts for Ms Yoko made by the children in all the classes. Dress-up day was also lots of fun. Ms Yoko visited as a clown!

The remainder of the term looks to be as exciting as we head towards the festive period of the year with Christmas and the end of term break.



By Jaom Fisher  
Location Manager TND

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### Smartkids dates:

\* Last day of Term 1:

December 14th 2012

\* First day of Term 2:

January 8th 2012

\* Tet holiday:

11th-15th February 2013

\* Non-children Day:

18th February 2013

\* Last day of Term 2:

29th March 2013

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## After School Activities

Our After School Activities (ASAs), which are held on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15- 4.45pm for children 3-6 years, started in September.

The smiles on the faces of the children attending have been testimony to how much they are enjoying the variety of activities on offer including yoga & creative play, music & movement, obstacle courses & social interactive games.

The children attending have come from various other schools in the area as well as from amongst our Smart-Kids children, so there has been a wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships and skills while having lots of fun!

If you are interested in the ASAs for the remainder of the term or next term, do inquire at reception for details.

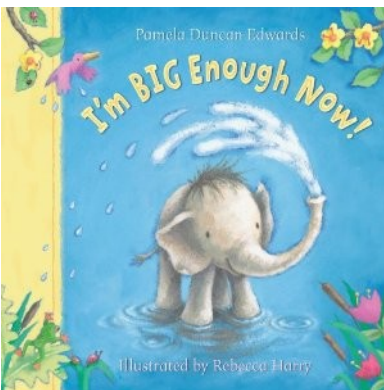


## Recommended Reading

**I'm Big Enough Now**

by Pamela Duncan Edwards

"I want to go and have adventures by myself. I'm big enough now!"



Does this sound familiar?

How do you balance encouraging independence in when they still need some assistance from an adult?

Baby Elephant thinks she's big enough now to have adventures all by herself. So, leaving her big, wise mum behind, she sets off - to the lake, the village and the jungle. But she soon realises that the world can be a scary place for a little elephant and that maybe it's better hav-

ing her mum beside her after all ... Warm, reassuring and beautifully illustrated, this story will resonate with parents and young children alike.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

The teachers will soon plan a schedule on their doors to arrange a time for a private meeting with each child's parents.

This is an opportunity for the teachers to share observations of your child and how they are settling in to SmartKids. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have concerning our child.

Children are not involved in these meetings.

## Farewells & News

During the term we said goodbye to Axel and Mischa from the Blue group, both of whom moved to Europe.

We also wished Ms Milette all the best as she returned to the Philippines for the birth of her baby.

We were excited to hear of the safe arrival of Matteo to Ms Nicole Corstanje who assisted at Smartkids last year.

