



Tran Ngoc Dien Talk



Chuc Mung Nam Moi

We hope that the Year of the Horse brings you all much good health and happiness!

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Location Manager TND

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Smartkids dates:

* Last day of Term 2:

March 28th 2014

* First day of Term 3:

April 7th 2014

* King Hung holiday:

April 9th 2014

* Reunification holiday:

April 30th- 1st May 2014

* Non-children days:

May 5th, June 27th 2014

* Last day of Term 3:

June 26th 2014



The children greatly enjoyed the lead up to Tet learning about the significance of certain cultural foods, traditions and stories, horses (for the Year of the Horse), as well as enthusiastically practicing their own dragon dancing and singing in anticipation of the Dragon Dance troupe visit.

"I am ...Me!" There has been wonderful growth and exploration amongst the children as they have engaged this term in exploring the theme: 'Who are we? We are curious'. The topics they are discussing throughout this term include the senses, the weather, science, growing up, living and non living things, and particularly discussing babies—as we have had a number of mothers and staff who are pregnant and there have been many questions and much interest amongst the children.

In December, the Kiddies visited play with the children there, and later visit. In January, in preparation for visited Street 10 again for a pony Club ponies. The children were very selves after their pony rides.

There will be many more enjoyable activities as the children continue to be inquisitive and explore their world.

Staff news: Ms Stephanie (Blue Group assistant) returned to Holland in December, and by the end of

term we will be saying farewell to Ms Ulrikka as she prepares for the birth of her baby. We are delighted to have Ms Cathy (previously at Street 10) return from maternity leave to begin as teacher in the Green group for the remainder of the year.



the Street 10 location for a in the month Santa came to the 'Year of the Horse', we ride with the Saigon Pony brave and so proud of them-



Selma's Tet watermelon

Parent Child Group

Our Parent/Child Group for 1-3 year olds, held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at our Street 10 location, is a good introduction for both children and parents to understand the SmartKids philosophy where children learn through play.

The children who have attended the Parent Child Group prior to commencing in the SmartKids program have transitioned smoothly into the kiddies classes. The cost is 100,000 VND per session. There is no need to register.



Kate riding Walk

Parent Teacher Meetings

Week of 10th–15th March

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 your child.

Children are not involved in these meetings.

The Power of Play

Play:

- Is fun and important to young children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.
- Helps children learn problem solving, interpersonal skills, communication, and other skills integral to success in school and life.
- Involves the enjoyment of time spent with a parent.
- Helps a child to explore and understand how the world works.
- Requires concentration, passion, and creative excitement from a child.
- Nurtures a child's development.
- Doesn't involve rules or require fancy toys.

Every child is unique. Your child may have special skills or special needs. Follow your child's lead. Your child will let you know what interests him/her. When your child sees the pleasure and delight you take in his /her discoveries, she/he'll want to play more and more.

Play will benefit you, too. Being spontaneous and having fun can relieve stress and create positive memories for both you and your child. And when your child is engaged and having fun, she/he is learning!

Play is truly the work of childhood.

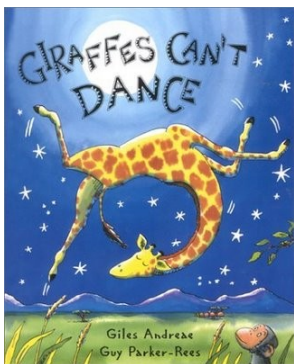
(Adapted from: www.zerotothree.org/play)

" We all can dance...
when we find music
that we love."

Recommended Reading

Giraffes can't dance

by Giles Andreae & Guy Parker-Rees



Giraffes Can't Dance is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend and learns that we are all different and sometimes all we need is a different song to dance to.

With light-footed rhymes and high-stepping illustrations, this tale is gentle inspiration for every child with dreams of greatness. (Published by Orchard Books, 1999)

After School Activities

Our After School Activities (ASAs), are held at our three locations from 3.15—4.45pm each week.

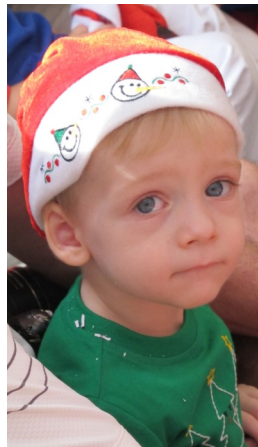
Tuesdays — Thao Dien (3-6 year olds)

Wednesdays—Tran Ngoc Dien (3-6 year olds)

Thursdays—Street 10 (2.5—4year olds)

The children attending have come from various other schools in the area as well as from amongst our SmartKids children, so there has been a wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships and skills while having lots of fun! Activities this term include cooking, yoga and science experiments.

SmartKids children are eligible for a special fee of \$12 per session to attend the ASAs. If you are interested in the ASAs for the remainder of the term or next term, do inquire at reception for de-



Milestones for Pre-schoolers (4-5 year olds)

Cognitive Development:

- Able to focus their attention more accurately, have increased concentration, and less influenced by distractions.
- Intensity of questions increases as child develops a strong curiosity for the world around them, learning through observations and social interactions, engaging in dramatic play, taking on pretend character roles and recalling events correctly.
- Learning rules of behaviour and the reasons behind them.
- Following simple rules and enjoying helping.
- Increased memory skills - able to retain two or three pieces of information while acting on them.
- Able to describe pictures in detail, identify and name primary and secondary colours, name most letters of the alphabet and numbers, and can begin to copy and write them.
- Will understand various concepts such as opposites (e.g. big/little), positional words (middle, end), time, sorting, grouping and matching, order and process, and counting chronologically.
- A higher level of concentration enabling them to complete and engage in more challenging tasks, such as using objects and materials to build or construct things, (e.g. block tower, puzzle, clay, sand and water).
- A genuine understanding of numbers develops - will begin to consider concepts such as shapes and colours in more detail.



Social and Emotional Development:

- Begin to interact effectively with others, develop friendships and 'best friends' (with a preference for same sex friends).
- Play becomes more innovative and organized, and they are able to understand and follow rules, and cooperate with one another (wanting to please friends).
- They enjoy imaginative play with other children, and compare their physical selves as well as their abilities with others.
- Have developed an understanding for other's feelings and become more sensitive. They can comfort someone when hurt.
- They show increasing independence and will also want to be given more responsibility and enjoy helping out with chores.
- They model the behaviour they observe and need to be encouraged to say please and thank you or even lend a helping hand.
- Opportunities will often arise where they may offer their help to do certain tasks or chores. This is a positive step in their behaviour.
- They understand what is good and bad behaviour and need to be told that what they are doing is right for re-assurance. For those around a preschooler it's important to show socially acceptable interactions.
- Like to give and receive affection from parents.

Physical Development (Gross motor skills):

- They make big progress in gross motor skills such as running, jumping, skipping, balancing or hopping on one foot, walking backwards, balancing and climbing.
- Their movement becomes agile and more controlled.
- Their learning ability begins to increase enabling preschoolers to take part in a variety of activities. They can easily throw, catch and kick a ball, do somersaults, begin to skip rope, use outdoor equipment confidently and with increased agility, and begin to ride a two wheeler bike.
- They are more confident with activities that involve gross motor skills.
- They are aware of their strength and their balance and co-ordination are much greater.
- They eagerly take part in games that encourage their kicking, catching and throwing skills, and participating in positive playing experiences.
- They enjoy learning simple rhythm and movement routines.
- They can dress and undress with little help.



Language Development:

- Enjoy talking and are happy to tell their ideas or what they're thinking.
- They combine words with gestures and facial expressions to make their stories more believable and interesting. Words begin to flow easily and with little effort.
- They are clearer in their speech, they can participate in conversations, can understand a sequence of events, answer simple questions, and are able to retell stories with a larger more descriptive vocabulary.
- They will have an endless amount of questions (when, how, why), and understand concepts (same and different, comparatives -fast, faster, fastest, and time - morning, afternoon, night).
- They seek more detailed information about events or topics that interest them.
- Their attention span is extended and they can pay attention when listening to a story.
- They understand between two and three instructions.
- Their speech and language becomes more complex from this age because of their broader vocabulary and a greater understanding of grammatical concepts while speaking.
- They are able to express their ideas and feelings in detail, and enjoy talking (and at times will never want to stop).

(Adapted from <http://aussiechildcarenetwork.com>)

