



Tran Ngoc Dien Talk



Chuc Mung Nam Moi



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

Term 2 has been another period of celebration as we welcomed in the new calendar year of 2015 and prepared for the Year of the Goat for Vietnamese New Year (Tet). The children have been greatly enjoying the lead up to Tet - learning about the significance of certain cultural foods, traditions and stories, goats (for the Year of the Goat), as well as enthusiastically practicing their own dragon dancing and singing in anticipation of the Dragon Dance troupe visit.

"Do you taste and smell like I can?" There has been wonderful exploration and enthusiasm amongst the children as they have engaged this term in exploring the senses of taste and smell.

We have seen a growth in communication and language skills amongst the children since the start of term and the children have enjoyed reading various stories. The Kiddies have had wonderful discussions about food, where it comes from, and associated themes (healthy/unhealthy, sweet/sour, like/dislike). We have farewelled a few Green Group children who have moved up to the Big Kids classes or away, and look forward to welcoming some new friends into the class after the Tet holidays. The Big Kids have been so welcoming of new friends into the class and playing together. They have enjoyed exploring the themes of celebration (and the different forms in various countries), vacations (what we do and where we go), as well as movement and the various forms of transport.

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



After School Activities

Our After School Activities (ASAs) for 3-6 year olds, are held at our three locations from 3.15-4.45pm each week:

Tuesdays (TD), Wednesdays (TND), Thursdays (St. 10).

The children attending come from various other schools in the area as well as from amongst our SmartKids children, so there is a wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships and skills while having lots of fun! Activities this term include games, obstacle courses, drama, yoga.

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 details.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Week of 23rd-27th March

The teachers will place 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.

How to effectively communicate with your child

Sometimes it's quite challenging to get your child to listen and to cooperate.

How can you communicate effectively so that your child actually listens and responds to you? The first step for effective communication is that you bring yourself into a positive mindset.

No matter how challenging your kid's behaviour is, for them it's all about learning how to succeed as an independent person. So take a deep breath, admire how far they've come already and focus on finding win-win-solutions for all of you.



Get your Child's Attention:

It is hard to leave any activity you're absorbed in and for your child it might be that new game or toy they just got or any other activity really. The call "dinner's ready." or "Time to go! - Get ready!", might be heard, but especially when shouted from a different room, those calls quickly get forgotten.

To get your children listening:

- *Go where they are - don't shout from another room.
- *Before you speak, get their attention. Get down to your child's level or bring them up to yours; get eye contact; get their focus ("Mary, I need your eyes"), and address them with their name.
- *Use a pleasant tone of voice and positive words to describe your request. Stay on the lookout for win-win-situations.
- *Be brief - use the one-sentence rule and put the main directive in the opening sentence.
- *Use short sentences with one-syllable words.
- *If being absorbed in some activity is the reason, then your kids will be more likely to listen and follow, if you stay with them until they actually start.

How To Get Your Child To Cooperate:

Nobody likes to be ordered around or criticized too often, and these are the most common reasons for children to refuse to a request or statement.

- *Be positive.
- *Make a request your child can't refuse and offer a reason for the request e.g. "would you get dressed so that you can go outside and play?" or "when you get your teeth brushed, then we'll begin the story". This also implies that you expect it to be done.
- *Begin with "I want" or "I would like...", which then gives a reason for compliance rather than an order.
- *Be direct - don't state what is wrong, state what you want e.g. "please pack away your toys" rather than "your room is so messy". Do the task together.... "let's pack up your toys together."
- * Don't lecture but model in your own behaviour and let your child make their own experiences safely. Speak to your child in the way you would like them to speak to you.
- *Prepare for changes - use transitions and rituals - tell your child ahead of time that something is going to happen. "It's time for soccer training. We'll leave in 5 minutes. Please finish what you're doing."
- * Give a limited choice e.g. "Which shoes would you like to wear today? The pink ones or the brown ones?" That takes the focus off the task of "putting shoes on". However, don't ask questions that aren't really choices. If you ask something like "Shall we go home?" you need to be prepared to get the answer "Not yet mum."
- *Replay your message so that your child internalizes your directives.
- *Talk your child down when having a tantrum. The louder your child yells, the softer you respond. Let your child ventilate while you interject timely comments: "I understand". Sometimes having a caring listener available will wind down the tantrum. Be the adult with him/her and don't resort to also shouting as that will only build the tantrum.
- *Close the discussion - if the matter is really closed to discussion, say so. "I'm not changing my mind about this. Sorry".