



Welcome to our... October newsletter

From the Office

Dear Parents,

Our curriculum is in full swing and the children are enjoying all the fun learning activities and exploration. Our curriculum is a play based learning curriculum and derived from children's interests and needs. At Bright Beginnings, children are engaged in active learning through play experiences that allow them to construct, test and apply their developing awareness. The most important goal of our program is to help children become enthusiastic learners. This means encouraging children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try out their ideas and to think their own thoughts. We aim to help children become independent, self-confident and inquisitive learners. By fostering a love of learning and healthy self-esteem we hope to provide each child with a strong foundation for their future learning at school and beyond.

"Play is central to the network of learning, and not merely recreation for learning. Play integrates the child's learning, making learning deep, broad, relevant, thorough and imaginative. Play and first hand experiences enable the child to struggle, manipulate, explore, discover and practice, thus becoming highly competent in a variety of ways. Through play, children understand and express their thoughts and feelings about the world cognitively and affectively." Tina Bruce (1991) Time To Play In Early Childhood Education.

We have lots of exciting new learning opportunities for the rest of the month and into December. October is the start of our celebrations, the children enjoyed the Pink Day activities and came beautifully dressed in red and pink.

The children helped us transform the Nursery with their beautiful artwork and helped us decorate our playground with their creations. Thank you to all of those that added to our Breast Cancer charity donation box, as an all-female staff team this is a charity that is very close to all of our hearts so thank you!

In October, the children will also enjoy dress up day and will have the opportunity to become the super heroes they want to be, Doctors, dinosaurs and princesses (to name a few!) We look forward to seeing them dressed up and enjoying a classroom party with their friends. November will also be busy, so please mark your calendars and check the dates shared below!

I'd like to thank all those Parents who have had little ones who have not been 100% and kept them home and visited the Doctors for clearance letters. We know it is not an easy process but together we are all helping to keep the children safe and well as much as we can.

Please keep an eye out for the posts on FAMLY and give them a like so we know you are seeing them. You can also message the teachers on FAMLY via private message if needed or email us or call us anytime.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ghenwa to our Office. She is very much looking forward to meeting you all!

Thank you and as always please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything.

A Few Reminders: Please, please, please remember to return the "Child Weekly Health Declaration" each Sunday morning at the latest. This is a big part of our compliance criteria with ADEK and we must have them all in from every family every week. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Ghenwa, Yvette and I would love to have a Sunday of all forms in ontime :)

Joud, Ghenwa and Yvette

Monthly topics

October

Ladybirds & Fireflies: All About Me!

Caterpillars, Butterflies, Zuhour, Yaraqat & Coccinelles: Fruit and Vegetables

Dragonflies, Libellule, Asafeer & Farashat: Healthy Lifestyles



Don't forget!...

Events - November

Wednesday 3rd: UAE Flag Day

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th: Diwali Celebrations

Sunday 14th & Monday 15th: Blue Day

Sunday 14th - Thursday 18th: Health and Fitness Week

Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th: Parent/Teacher meetings (more details will be sent to you closer to the time)

Thursday 25th November: Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday 28th & Monday 29th: National Day Celebrations

Tuesday 30th: Martyr's Day - Nursery closed (to be confirmed)

Happy Birthday!

in October...

Look Who's 1! Look Who's 2!

Robert

Siddig

Satsuki

Nader

Look Who's 3! Look Who's 4!

Yassin

John

Deuven

Anthony

Henry

Varsh

Jad

Noor

Rola

Yasmina

Conrad

Hashim

Bennet

Adam

Hind

Salma

Maryah

Under Fours...

In the next few newsletters we will be providing you with extracts from a number of our policy handbooks.

HOW WE STRUCTURE OUR PLAY BASED CURRICULUM

At Bright Beginnings we believe that children learn best through active exploration of their environment. Active learning requires thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn first hand about the world we live in. This is why we place a strong emphasis on providing a safe and caring environment in which children have the opportunity to explore, experiment, discover and ask questions. The activities we plan and the way in which we organise the environment, select resources and interact with the children are all designed to ensure that each child leaves Bright Beginnings with happy memories, a positive self-concept and all the skills that they need for a successful start to school. Structure exists, but the focus is on play and socialization rather than academics. Lessons are carried out through play-based activities that are rooted in basic social skills like sharing, taking turns, self-control, making friends, following instructions and getting along with others.

"Playful learning supports academic outcomes, and also supports positive associations with learning that help children become successful, happy, lifelong learners." Dr. Craig Bach, vice president of education of The Goddard School.

Our play based learning approach follows the following areas of learning and also supports the types of play the children will be engaged in throughout the day within their learning environment.

- **Dramatic Play (learning by role-taking/pretending)** – explore roles, relationships, skills – the skills needed to be a parent, shopkeeper, doctor and carpenter – including language and numeracy skills, thinking and relationship skills.
- **Manipulative Play (learning by touch/feel/manipulating)** – to develop mathematical, design, collaboration and negotiation skills (for example building with Lego/blocks etc)
- **Sensory Play (learning through senses)** – to explore science concepts about volume, capacity, consistency etc. Unless children have first-hand experience of materials and their properties they cannot understand them at a mental level (for example playing with sand and water).
- **Creative Play (learning by creating)** - the purpose here is to encourage creative expression. What are the experiences, ideas and feelings that children want to express? What are the different ways of doing that? We want to open up the 100 languages of children, rather than limiting them to talking, reading and writing. Creativity creates alert minds that are able to invent and think outside the box (art and craft activities).
- **Exploratory Play (learning by finding out)** - where children stretch themselves – learn to manage risk – develop a sense of adventure and well-being as well as important physical and mental skills. Physically active play allows children to test and develop all types of motor skills. It promotes significant health and wellbeing benefits (gross motor activities).
- **Language Development** – Through stories, songs, rhymes. Children love them and they are a real help in developing language, numeracy, rhythm, movement and a sense of community.

We also have a strong **tri-lingual program** that includes English, French and Arabic taught through play using all of the above approaches.

At Bright Beginnings we use an holistic approach in our play based curriculum – we teach children social responsibility, to appreciate and take care of their environment, to be global learners who have a strong sense of community. We actively engage with our families and foster close relationships with those within our immediate community and further afield.

