

From the Office

Dear Parents,

This is my favourite time of the year as it is the start of lovely fresh weather and lots of fun celebrations. November and December are festive months and we will definitely be celebrating here at Bright Beginnings.

The children really enjoyed celebrating Flag Day all together in the front garden with social distancing protocols that worked perfectly! They loved the experience of seeing so many other children in the front garden and enjoyed waving their flags and singing the UAE National Anthem. The next day, we continued our celebrations with Diwali, the Festival of Lights. All the children participated and made lovely and colourful art activities, listened to music and enjoyed dancing and having fun with bubbles in the garden. Our next celebration will be Thanksgiving, the children will have some fun activities with their friends and will write down with parent and teacher support on paper leaves what they are thankful for. We will have discussions about all the things that make us happy and share it with our friends!

The end of November will mark one of the most important celebrations here in the UAE which is National Day. This year this beautiful country will celebrate 50 years of unity and independence. So we would like to invite the children to come dressed in the local National dress or in the colours of the UAE National flag. The children will be making flags, listening to Arabic music and will enjoy lots of other fun activities that will introduce them to the UAE history and culture. A separate letter will go out soon as we need some help with making this day extra special. Our last celebration will be 'Winter Wonderland' which is really fun; the nursery will transform into a magical place, the children will play with snow and wear some winter clothes. So stay tuned and get your diaries ready for all the fun and festive activities coming our way!

In terms of our curriculum and topics, as we mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are in full swing with our learning of new topics and exploring new concepts. But I would like to emphasize on one important point that is very much part of our curriculum as well! As much as we have our lesson plans and curriculum to follow, we are led by the children and often they will tell us what they want to learn. If one of our children encounters a 'really cool bug' in the outdoor area and they want to learn more about it, we will convert our whole lesson plan to learn about the bug. We will also make sure that they are active participants in the planning process and encourage them to think of what activities we should do and how to do them. The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed chatting with your teachers at the parent-teacher conferences and we hope you found them useful. Please give us any feedback as it will help us make sure that our next ones are as effective if not more effective and helpful!

As always, please pass by the office any time for a chat, a query or a concern. We would love to see you all.

A Few Reminders: We are busy filling spaces for January at the moment so if you are looking to change your child's days for next term, then please let us know ASAP so we can be sure to be able to offer you what you need.

Your tuition fees for next term are due on December 1st, any questions then please let me know.

The last day of this term will be **Thursday 16th December** and we will return for the new Spring term on **Monday 3rd January**.

Joud, Zhenwa and Yvette

Monthly topics

December

Ladybirds & Fireflies: Winter Wonderland

Caterpillars, Butterflies, Zuhour, Yaraqat & Coccinelles: Winter Wonderland

Dragonflies, Libellule, Asafeer & Farashat: Winter Wonderland

Don't forget!...

Events - December

Wednesday 1st:
Martyr Day
(Nursery Closed - TBC)

Thursday 2nd:
UAE National Day
(Nursery Closed - TBC)

Sunday 12th - Thursday 16th:
Winter Wonderland
Activities Week
(More details to be sent to
you closer to the time)

Happy Birthday!

in November...

Look Who's 2!

Marco

Look Who's 3!

Calvin	Abdullah
Amyra	Karim M.
Saif	Matar
Leen	

Look Who's 4!

Raphael	Aisha
Ethan	Mariam
Laura	Roudha
Daniel	

Under Fours...

This is an excellent article for us all to reflect on and ensure we are modelling and valuing tolerance with our children.

How To Teach Your Children About Tolerance

Child Development Institute

In our societies today we simply cannot deny that we are surrounded by differences in ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, disabilities and other differences.

Some people love to be surrounded by a multicultural society while others do not feel at ease. This mostly depends on our own exposure and attitudes towards our interactions with different people.

Why encourage tolerance in our children?

To start with, we want our children to feel relaxed and open to learning from different cultures. They bring new ideas, experiences and energy to our lives. Our children can potentially learn bundles from other cultures. If willing, tolerance opens doors in business, education, travel, leisure, lifestyle, art plus other areas of life.

To help our children have a successful future, they need to be able to work with others. They need to not be afraid, to step outside their comfort zone and to understand, learn, respect and appreciate others. Tolerance is not about accepting bad behaviour, but accepting "people" for who they are and treating those how "you" wish to be treated. Remind your children of this consistently.

Being tolerant of differences doesn't mean sacrificing your own heritage or beliefs. We can be proud and stand by those beliefs 100% while continuing to celebrate the differences of others. The tolerance level that parents possess naturally teaches their children the same message. Children closely watch and imitate us, even before they can speak. Children will mirror the values and attitudes of those they love and look up to. Parents who model and display tolerance in their every day actions and words teach their children to appreciate differences in others too. So we teach by example and provide them with opportunities to play and work with others. Children can't "just" be told, they need to experience first hand how people who are different and similar to themselves can contribute in numerous ways.

Here are some tips for how to teach your children tolerance.

- Look at the way you treat and speak to others. Does this reflect tolerance? Demonstrate a respect for others and reflect on your own attitude regularly.
- Children listen and learn from you. At school, I have often overheard children stereotyping and joking about the slang names given to different groups. When asked about those words they mostly tell me that is what they have heard used at home. Even if you're having a conversation with your partner, be mindful that your children may be listening. Think carefully about the words you use. By all means talk about differing groups in a factual and informative manner, but avoid joking and any degrading name-calling. Your children may repeat what they have heard and sometimes in less private situations.
- Answer your child's questions honestly and respectfully. Everyone notices differences in people so it is perfectly okay to discuss them with your children if done in a respectful way.
- Choose programs, movies, stories and games that value differences. The media has a powerful ability to shape attitudes. If you do watch or see something that is prejudice, be sure to talk about it with your children and the hurt it can cause to those groups.
- Expect your children to treat others with respect. By modelling tolerance yourself, you should certainly not accept disrespectful behaviour both inside and outside your home.
- Value the differences within your own family. Accept the qualities each member possesses regardless of differing styles, interests and abilities. Help your children feel values for who they are too.
- Foster self-esteem in your family. We all know that people who don't respect others rarely feel happy and secure within themselves. Children who do feel good about themselves tend to be more courteous towards others.
- Involve your children in situations where diversity is present. This may be at sport, school, day care and camps.
- Learn together about other cultures and traditions. Explore how different cultures celebrate occasions in their own special way and go about life. Talk about it and appreciate the experience.
- Teach your own family traditions to your children and encourage pride. Value and talk about where you belong and be open to teach others what you have to offer.

Think about the behaviors you wish to see in your child. Then model those behaviors, because children will mostly follow in your footsteps.