

From the Office

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our November Newsletter! A quick Look back at October.

The children worked very hard to turn the nursery 'Pink' for Breast Cancer Awareness. This year's artwork was truly amazing and very creative. Thank you everyone for your kind donations, in total we raised AED 275 for our Charity, Pink Caravan.

On the 27th & 28th the children celebrated 'Dress Up Day' which was a huge success as always. It was wonderful to see everyone participating in this fun occasion. The Nursery welcomed superheroes, spiders, princesses, cats and pumpkins. Everyone had a great day and I think the teachers also enjoyed dressing up!

At last!! We can finally say that the weather has improved and the children are loving being outdoors more often. The months ahead will see lots of outdoor activities and some of the indoor activities taking place outside. We really must embrace the cooler months whilst they are here.

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 it may take a 30 minute discussion before they are satisfied that they know everything about the bug. The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

This month we introduced our Parent-Teacher conferences. This was a great opportunity to increase communication between nursery and home and to keep parents informed about their child's progress based on classroom observations. Thank you to all of our parents who attended the Parent-Teacher conferences. It is wonderful to see so many parents showing an interest in their child's early years development.

December will be a busy month here at Bright Beginnings as we will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee, 50th UAE National Day celebrations. This event is always spectacular as the children have the opportunity to dress up in National dress or the UAE National Colours and are invited to taste local cuisine. It is always wonderful to experience different cultures and traditions.

We also have our Winter Wonderland to look forward to in December so be prepared to pull out your winter woolies for a very chilly week. We may even see some snow!

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**.

Wishing you all a wonderful upcoming National Day weekend.

Until December *Gillian & Angel*

Monthly topics

December

Baby Bees, Ladybirds & Fireflies: Winter Wonderland

Grasshoppers & Butterflies: Winter Wonderland

Dragonflies & Asafeer: Winter Wonderland



Don't forget!...

Events - December

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

Thursday 2nd:
UAE National Day Celebrations
(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!

Eliyah Khokher
Alya Al Siksek
Dana Al Banna

Look Who's 3!

Ayla Al Qubaisi
Daniel Storey
Sultan Alkhoori

Look Who's 4!

Uri Park
Allen Cluff
Ethan Harris

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.

