

January Monthly Newsletter



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Happy 2019! On behalf of our staff, I would like to welcome back all of our returning families & extend a very warm welcome to our new children and their parents too. It has been wonderful to see how much most of our returning children have grown over the Winter break, and also a great pleasure to meet and get to know some of our new students and their families during the month of January. We look forward to working very closely with each of you throughout term 2 in order to best support your child at this very important stage of their lives.

Although our first month of the term is now over, some of our children (mostly the ones who joined us later on during the term), are still going through the **settling in stage**. This is absolutely normal and no reason for concern! Most children tend to take 2 to 3 weeks to settle and, even after this time, some might still get occasionally upset - especially after being away from the nursery for some time or right after the weekend. **To best support your child at this stage DO ensure that you stick to the timings which have been given to you by your child's class teacher during the settling in period.** Extending your child's timings abruptly will often have a negative impact on how they settle into this new environment. If you ever feel the need to talk about any issues related to your little one's settling in at the nursery or any other aspect of their education or development, please feel free to come in and see me. At TIN we have an **Open Door Policy**. Hence, as long as I am not in another meeting, I will be happy to see you at any time. ☺

Lastly, please do not forget to make note of your child's **upcoming Sports Day**. The children have been practicing really hard for this event and we look forward to seeing all of you here! ☺

Kindest regards,
Carol Oliveira - Principal at TIN DSO



Important Dates - February

- ❖ 12/02: Fire Drill
- ❖ 17/02: Sports Day:
Playful Pandas: 8:45am - 9:30am
Happy Hippos: 9:45am - 10:30am
- ❖ 18/02: Sports Day:
Delightful Dolphins: 8:45am - 9:30am
Caring Caterpillars: 9:45am - 10:30am
- ❖ 24/02: Sports Day:
Brilliant Bears: 8:45am - 9:30am
Sensible Snakes: 9:45am - 10:30am
Terrific Tigers: 10:45am - 11:30am
- ❖ 25, 26, 27/02: Class Photographs
- ❖ 28/02: Jungle Dress up Day



Arrivals & Dismissals

Please ensure that your child is at the Nursery by 8:30 am. Punctuality is vital as being late and missing out on part of their daily routine can be very upsetting for a child. Dismissal time for those who are not part of our Extended Day Programme is from 12:10pm-12:30pm. Those taking part in our extended day programme have an option of being collected at 2pm, 5pm or 6pm. Late collections can also be truly upsetting for a child, especially during the settling in period.

PLEASE NOTE: As many children were being picked up late on a daily basis, we have now once again put in place a late pick up fee which will have to be paid by all parents who are late to pick up their child. **Having more than the number of children booked for a particular time slot can impact the safety of your little ones as the number of staff members assigned to the different time slots is based on the number of children enrolled until that particular time.** If you have any concerns regarding the late pick up fee or would like to extend your child's timings, please see our Admin Dept. **Your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.** ☺



School Readiness

The Importance of Personal, Social & Emotional Development for Preschool Children



It's that time of the year in which parents start getting very concerned about the dreaded school assessments and often worry if their child will be able to pass it or not. With this in mind, I've decided to dedicate a part of this newsletter to an area of development that often tends to be forgotten by mummies and daddies but which plays a very important role in getting your child accepted in a 'big' school. So let's talk about **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**...

Parents often tend to think that school assessments are all about ABC's and 123's but there's more to them than that. I can't emphasize enough how important a child's Personal, Social and Emotional Development is when it comes to them being accepted in a new school. But what does this mean exactly? Here are a few very important points related to this area of development which you should keep in mind before your child attends his/her school assessment(s):

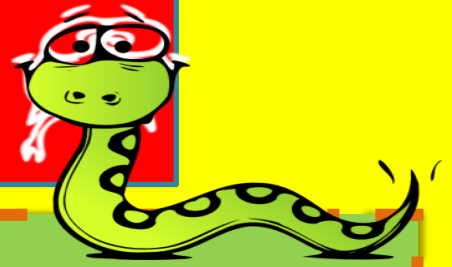
- ❖ **Emotional confidence & the ability to let go of mum/dad:** By the time your child joins school he/she should be able to separate from you without a great struggle. Therefore, in many school assessments examiners will often observe if your child is able to do this too. Although 'separation anxiety' is a normal part of child development, by the time children are 2+ this should have ideally disappeared. **How can you help?** Give your little one PLENTY of practice by encouraging him/her to walk to class at the nursery on a daily basis. Avoid carrying them to class and, whenever possible, try and drop them by the gate. Giving your child the opportunity to play, interact and even spend some time with other people rather than only mum or dad can also help a lot.
- ❖ **Become more Independent:** When your child joins school, he/she will be expected to do a lot of things on their own, which includes: taking care of their belongings & tidying up, asking for what they need/want, using the washroom and eating independently. Although the examiner will not be able to observe all of these skills during the assessment, they might often look for 'clues' as to how self-reliant your child is. **How can you help?** Once again, practice makes perfect! Therefore, DO ensure that you give your child many opportunities to be independent at home and constantly give them a chance to practice the skills mentioned above. Moreover, if your child is nearly 3 or 3+ you can also try to encourage them to be more independent when you go out. For example: Have them help you with the grocery shopping and perhaps even buy an item by themselves too. Needless to say, always observe that they are safe and fine!
- ❖ **Basic Social Skills:** Some schools tend to hold assessments in small groups. If this is the case, they will often observe how your child interacts with others and if he/she is willing to follow instructions, share and take turns. Even if the assessment is held on a one-to-one basis with the examiner, having some basic social skills can also go a long way in creating a good first impression. This includes: responding to greetings (i.e. "Good morning?" "How are you?") and being able to answer some basic questions (i.e. "What's your name?"). **How can you help?** Encourage your child to greet others and do ensure that they see you doing this too. Arrange play dates and give them daily opportunities to socialize and interact with other people rather than only with their immediate family.
- ❖ **Bedtime Routine:** Children who didn't get a good night sleep often feel grumpy and emotional the next day. Hence, going for an early morning assessment after sleeping late is definitely not a good idea! **How can you help?** Establish a fairly consistent bedtime routine at home for your child and ensure that he/she goes to bed early on the day before the assessment. **Children between 3-5 years of age should sleep from 10-13 hours per night.**

I hope this helps! ☺

If you have any other queries with regards to school assessments, do not hesitate to contact us.

Monthly Newsletter

Sensible Snakes



Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Wishing all our families a wonderful New Year ahead. We hope that everyone had a great winter break and have had fun with their family and friends. The returning children seem to have settled back into the routine and the new children have also settled in beautifully into our Foundation Programme. They can already be observed building wonderful friendships and are developing socially, personally and emotionally. We are off to a great start!

Starting off the term with the theme "Sports and Movement ", the children were excited to play games with their friends outdoors and indoors and learn new vocabulary words related to the theme. The main focus of the theme was to help the children develop an understanding that being active and exercising is good for us and can make us healthy. Additionally, we have brainstormed why warm up and cool down exercises are important while we are playing sports. The children were learning how to do cool down exercises, stretching each part of the body and while using all the correct terms for the different body parts including: wrists, ankles, elbows, etc. We also discussed various different topics, such as: " When you exercise, feel your heart...What can you observe?" "How does your skin feel like when you exercise?"

Moreover, we have practiced our math skills by counting various sports tools and equipment. Some children are showing good ability to sequence numbers and to match the numeral correctly to the number of objects.

We have been making great progress in learning our letters and sounds too. This is promoted through singing songs, practicing letters and sounds during circle time and many mark making activities. The children were broadening their vocabulary while working with matching pictures and objects to the associated letter sounds. Some children appear to be developing a better understanding of the phonetic sounds of a few letters and they have been practicing writing them in the sand and salt trays too. **If you wish to have extra practice at home with your child, please use <http://jollylearning.co.uk>.**

Additionally, the children investigated using their senses through listening games, lots of singing and playing instruments and exploring with their eyes and hands. The weather has been absolutely fantastic giving us the opportunity to do more outdoor activities, such as practicing for our upcoming Sports Day.

I would like to thank all parents for your constant support with our activities throughout the month.

Best regards,

Mrs. Shehara
Sensible Snakes Classroom Teacher

Below is a brief outline on how we have worked throughout the month towards developing all areas of learning:



Personal Social and Emotional Development

- ❖ Motivate and help the children to make new friends in the classroom.
- ❖ Observe the effects of sports activity on our body.
- ❖ Understand that equipment and tools have to be used safely.
- ❖ Develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.
- ❖ Introduction & importance of exercise and movement for our body.
- ❖ Encourage the children to get healthy foods in their snack boxes.



Communication/Language and Literacy



- ❖ Exploring and learning all about different sports.
- ❖ Introduction of the letters and the sounds : "Ee" and " Hh" through the Jolly phonics story, song and action.
- ❖ Learning new vocabulary words related to the theme. Identifying different kinds of sports using flashcards.
- ❖ Listening to different sounds and trying to guess what they are (a telephone ringing, a lion roaring, a dog barking, musical instrument, horn, etc.).
- ❖ Develop an understanding that being active and exercising will make us healthy.

Physical Development



- ❖ **Gross:** Stretching, moving in different ways: walking backwards and forwards, fast and slow, etc. Bowling , Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Cricket, various games, jumping, obstacles track, etc. Dance sessions.
- ❖ Kidde Gym session on Sundays. Daily stretching, breathing and crossing the middle line movement exercises; Yoga sessions.
- ❖ **Fine:** Playdough, cutting activities. 'straws and hair clips' activity, making paper crumbs. Mark making using whiteboard markers.
- ❖ Writing preparation activities; writing in the booklets.



Understanding of the World

- ❖ Visual representation of the different Sports. Emphasizing on football. It is played by 11 players; together they form a team that plays together to score goals.
- ❖ Football is also known as Soccer, It is played in teams, where one player has to kick the ball into the goal post to score a goal.
- ❖ Developing understanding why warm up and cool down exercises are important while we are playing sports.
- ❖ Understand that equipment and tools have to be used safely
- ❖ Develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time



Expressive Art and Design

- ❖ Reinforcement of primary and secondary colours on a daily basis.
- ❖ Dance and movement
- ❖ Outdoor games/ Sports Day practice.
- ❖ The letter and the sound "e" and "h" crafts.
- ❖ Basketball/ Cricket craft/ Football crafts.
- ❖ Free drawing/ painting.
- ❖ Kiddie Gym sessions/ Yoga sessions.



Mathematics

- ❖ Mathematical concepts on a daily basis: there are 7 days in a week, we get two days holiday, 12 months in a year & number rhymes (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 jump/ 1, 2 buckle my shoe), playdough sheets with numbers.
- ❖ Matching shapes circle, triangle, square, rectangle and diamond.
- ❖ Introduction of the shape hexagon through a pasting activity on the football
- ❖ Identification of the numbers 1-5.
- ❖ Introduction to the "Patterns" concept. The children were encouraged to make simple patterns using shapes.

Important reminders

- Kindly ensure your child has an early bed time, they need to be in bed **by 8:30 the latest** in order to ensure they have a good school day the next day.
- Kindly note the children need to wear the school uniform from **Sunday- Wednesday**, Thursday is colored clothes day. And kindly dress your child in comfortable shoes, shoes that they can take off and put on easily on their own (e.g.. shoes that have Velcro rather than laces)

Here are a few photos of what we have been up to this month...

Mathematical Development



Literacy Development



