

# April Monthly Newsletter

2019

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

The third and last term of the Academic Year is now upon us. How fast time has gone by! On behalf of the staff team, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families as we start this new term. Please feel free to come and see me whenever you feel the need to do so. At TIN we have an 'Open Door Policy' and I am always truly glad to get your feedback and hear your comments.

April was already a busy month, full of hands-on activities and celebrations: The children had a chance to take part in a planting activity during 'Earth Day' and explore different sensory bins and fun games when briefly introduced to Easter. Have a look at the lovely photos of all of these activities and many more which your child's class teacher has added to this newsletter. ☺

Most of our new children have now settled in beautifully and are starting to make new friends. Others are still getting used to the new routines. If that is your child case, don't worry & be patient! To better support your little one, please DO ensure, however, that you establish an **early bedtime routine** for him/her at home. Children who had a good night sleep tend to settle much faster than those who have not. If you have any questions with regards to this, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher.

Looking forward to a wonderful month ahead in which we will introduce Ramadan to our children!

Best regards,  
Carol Oliveira  
Principal at TIN DSO

## Ramadan Timings

As I am sure you are aware, the Holy month of Ramadan will start at the beginning of May. As a result, there will be some alterations to our nursery timings.

### The timings for the Holy month of Ramadan will be as follows:

- Arrivals for Breakfast Club children will be at 8am.
- Arrivals for all remaining children will be between 8.30am - 9.00am.
- Our bus children will be leaving the nursery at their normal time.
- Our noon dismissal will remain the same (12.10pm - 12:30pm).
- Our 2pm dismissal will remain the same.
- All remaining children will need to be collected by 4pm latest.

We thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Ramadan Kareem to all  
of our families!

## Important Dates - May

- ❖ 02/05: World Book Day Celebration - Book Character Dress up Day
- ❖ 06/05: Ramadan Begins (\*\*Date may be subject to change).
- ❖ 08/05 & 09/05: Splash Day!
- ❖ 30/05: Farm Animals & Pets Dress up Day



## Ramadan Activities that Parents can do with their Children...



**Decorate your home together:** Encourage your little one to help you make your home look even prettier for the Holy month of Ramadan. They can make their own crafts to use for decoration too.

**Make Paper Lanterns:** Work together on this craft project by providing different materials for your child to use & explore while making his/her own paper lanterns. Lots of samples & ideas can be found on the internet.

**Promote Little Acts of Kindness:**

We should always be kind to others, but let this be a month in which we truly promote this concept to our children: Encourage them to be kind to their friends, siblings and relatives through some small acts of kindness. Give them ideas on how to do it and role model it too!

**Learn more about the Moon:** As the moon plays an important role during Ramadan, take this opportunity to teach your child a bit more about it. Do some research on the phases of the moon and what they symbolize during Ramadan and take time to find the moon & observe the sky together.

**Read Ramadan Children's Books:** There are lots of books for children that can teach them about Ramadan and/or the importance of kindness and charity. Read to your child before bedtime.



## Important Reminders

- **Food:** A good diet is particularly important for young children as it affects their growth & development. At TIN we promote healthy eating so please ensure that you only send nutritious meals to school. Cut-up fresh fruits or vegetables, yoghurt, cheese or a simple sandwich are examples of appropriate healthy snack choices. Carbonated drinks, chocolate & chocolate spread, sweets and crisps should NOT be sent to school.
- **Uniform:** If you haven't bought your child's uniform yet, please remember to do so. All sizes are now available at our Admin Office. The school uniform must be worn from Sunday to Wednesday. Thursday is a casual day.
- **Backpacks:** Please do not send oversized bags to the Nursery. We are encouraging children to become more independent. Therefore, each child will be encouraged to manage their own belongings.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Toddlers International Nursery  
Dubai Silicon Oasis**

**PLEASE NOTE:** We also have a Facebook Closed Group accessible to DSO families only.

If you have any queries regarding how to join the group, please contact our Admin office.

What will we learn about in May?

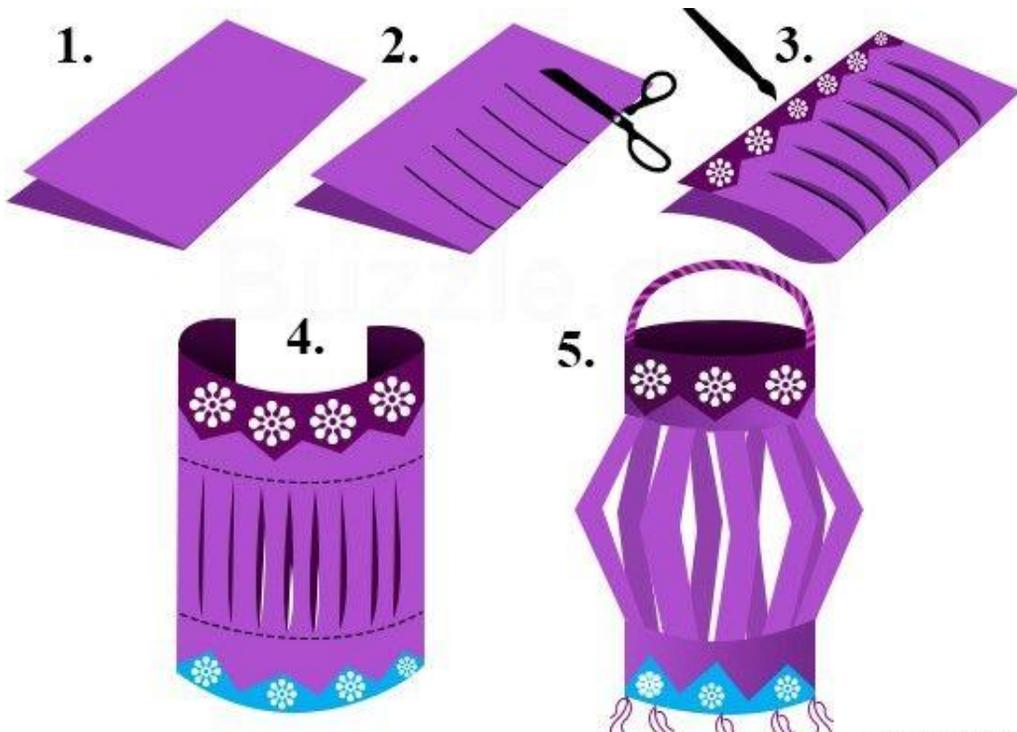


**Farm Animals & Pets**

# How to make a Ramadan Paper Lantern



Would you like to make a Ramadan paper lantern with your child?  
Simply follow the instructions below!

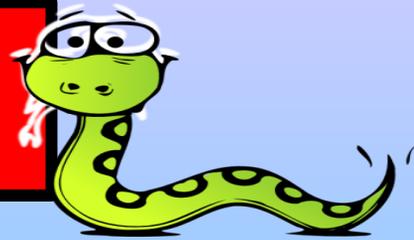


This activity will help your little one exercise his/her fine motor skills while folding and cutting the paper and if using sequins & other small materials to decorate the lantern. It will also help them enhance their hand-eye coordination. Most importantly, it will further boost their personal and emotional development if they have a chance to work on it together with mum & dad. 😊



# Monthly Newsletter

## Sensible Snakes



Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing and fun Spring Break with your families. Our returning children seemed very excited to be back at the nursery and see their friends again. We also have a few new friends who have joined our classroom this term. Therefore, I would like to welcome all of these new children and their families to the Sensible Snakes class. We are very happy to have you with us and we look forward to many memorable and fun months ahead. I am also pleased to report that our new children have started settling in well into their new environment and are now enjoying their time at the nursery a lot too.

As you are aware, the theme for this month was "Spring and Insects". The children were introduced to the four seasons and to the changes that you see in the Spring season, namely, flowers, insects and occasional April showers (Rain). The children enjoyed talking about the flowers that are blossoming, singing songs about the weather and learning about all the different insects and baby animals that come about in Spring. Some of the books that enhanced our learning about the topic included 'Guess How Much I love You in Spring', 'The Very Lazy Ladybird' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

Additionally, to further enhance the children's fine motor skills and help them develop their creativity, we had fun with art projects featuring beautiful spring flowers, baby birds, caterpillar craft, using playdough with flowers and seeds, etc. The children are also being exposed to fine motor skilled activities like transferring, pouring, sponging, treading, free mark making, colouring and cutting with scissors to help them develop their pincer grip and fine motor skills even further. Kindly do reinforce these activities in the home environment as well.

We also celebrated Earth Day this month and spoke to the children about keeping our Earth green and clean. On this special day they all wore blue and green to mark the occasion and the children had an opportunity to plant some mustard seeds and watch it grow for a few days. Moreover, we had an amazing 'World Book Day' celebration: various characters stepped out of the pages of the children's favourite storybooks and began new adventures within the classroom environment. The children also got a chance to watch the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' being enacted by the foundation teachers. It was an enjoyable day!

With regards to the area of literacy, the children have been introduced to the letter sounds and formations "Ll and Ff". This has been reinforced through the Jolly phonics story, song, action, object box and through activity sheets. Additionally, the children have been practicing the formations on whiteboards, sand trays and with paint. Currently, the children have completed the Jolly Phonics phase 3 letters and they seem to have been gaining a better understanding of the letter-sounds, the words associated and their formations. Kindly continue to reinforce these concepts through fun ways at home too. **If you wish to have extra practice with your child, please use <http://jollylearning.co.uk>. You can also view the Jolly Phonics songs and stories on You Tube.**

I would like to thank all parents for your constant support and cooperation.

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

- ❖ Exploring small world area toys using textured sand, tree barks, leaves, twigs, etc.
- ❖ Group activities to reinforce sharing and taking turns (e.g. flower prints, playdough cutters, parachute play, etc).
- ❖ Circle time games like weaving the spider web using yarn while saying names encouraged the children to experience a feeling of belonging to the group.
- ❖ Pretend play in our indoor play area Flower shop gave an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the world they live in.



## Communication/Language and Literacy

- ❖ Circle time discussions included weather songs, talking about spring months, rainbow colours.
- ❖ Guessing game using Magic bag with items related to spring to teach vocabulary and words related to the theme.
- ❖ Parachute games for following instructions like go under, hold it high, make waves, shake it up, shake it down etc. to enhance language, understanding and vocabulary skills.
- ❖ Reading books and stories to foster and strengthen listening as well as language skills.
- ❖ Children learned new vocabulary in relation to the topic (e.g. 'caterpillar, butterfly, cocoon, 'Duckling', 'blossom', etc).

## Physical Development

- ❖ **Gross motor:**
- ❖ Kidde Gym session on Sundays. Daily breathing and crossing the middle line movement exercises; Yoga sessions.
- ❖ Music and movement activities which involved moving and coordinating using props like scarves, sticks and pompoms.
- ❖ Exploring different ways of moving as represented by different spring events, activities and objects e.g. jumping like a bunny, growing tall like a flower, skipping like a lamb, splashing in puddles etc.
- ❖ **Fine motor:** pouring, transferring, threading, manipulating Play dough, cutting activities. 'straws and hair clips' activity, Mark making using whiteboard markers. Using markers and writing tools to practice pre-writing skills.
- ❖ Making mini beasts and flower garden with playdough, buttons, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, flowers, etc.





## Understanding of the World

- ❖ Introduce the concept of the bee making honey (collecting nectar and depositing it in the beehive to make honey).
- ❖ Experiencing real plants or flowers for the children to look at touch, smell and draw.
- ❖ Encourage children to use magnifying glasses to look carefully at different plants and flowers growing around the outside area.
- ❖ Mini beast hunt in the sand tub, hide the mini beast in the wet sand and ask the children to count how many they can find, ask them to describe them once found.
- ❖ Introduction to the life cycle of a butterfly from the egg, to a caterpillar, to a cocoon and then a beautiful butterfly. Reinforce this concept through a video, craft and story.



## Expressive Art and Design

- ❖ Different crafts related to the theme, the Earth Day & Easter concept .
- ❖ Children used their creativity and imagination to make various playdough mini beasts, flowers and baby animals using buttons, leaves, twigs, sequins, etc.
- ❖ Play with small world mini beasts and flowers.
- ❖ The letter and the sound "l" and "f" crafts.
- ❖ Dance and movement.
- ❖ Free drawing/ painting.
- ❖ Kiddie Gym sessions/ Yoga sessions.



## Mathematics

- ❖ Number recognition 1-10 on white board via number matching game.
- ❖ Rote counting 1-20. Counting how many girls and boys in the classroom.
- ❖ 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, play dough sheets with numbers.
- ❖ Introduction and revision of number 1 - 4, formation and quantity associated .
- ❖ Making flowers out of shapes activity. Introducing Hexagon shape through making beehive. "Here is a Beehive".

### Important reminders

- Kindly note children need to wear their school uniform from Sunday to Wednesday and Thursday is clored clothes day ( any comfortable attire).
- Kindly ensure children have an early bed time and that a good daily routine is reinforced with children (they need to be in bed by 8:30 latest) in order to ensure that children are able to have a good day at school and enjoy their time spent at the nursery with their friends and teachers.

# Activities during the month of April



# Fine and Gross Motor Activities



# Lemonade And Honey Tasting Activity

