



# Smartkids Riverside Talk

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## Transitions to Big Kids, a new school, or a new country

At SmartKids, we prepare the children who will move in August to the "Big Kids" for this important transition.

Next week we will begin to introduce the children to their new class by making small visits. The children will join during snack time, lunch time or circle time in their new class. We already started earlier with playing outside together in order to meet new friends and teachers. The children who move from the "Big Kids" to an International School in August have already been for a visit with



### Important dates to remember

- Wednesday August 20th, 2012 Last day of school.
- Friday August 17th, 2012 Orientation day and coffee morning for all children and parents. Please join us from 9:00 am—11:00 am.
- Monday August 20th, 2012 First day of school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Dear Parents,

Another "school year" has come to an end! Time flies! SmartKids will already celebrate it's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, coming October. In the mean time we have 3 locations and around 125 children. I want to thank all our staff for their continuous support and hard work. They are dedicated and professional early childhood specialists who try everyday to make it another exciting, happy day for your child in which learning through play is the focus. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the great support and enthusiasm they have given us this year. I wish you a good holiday and I hope to see you and your children back in August!

Best regards,

Joke Otter - Van Zuijlen, pedagogue



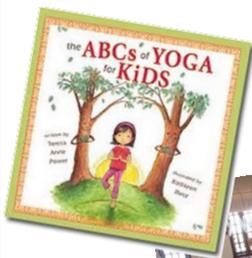
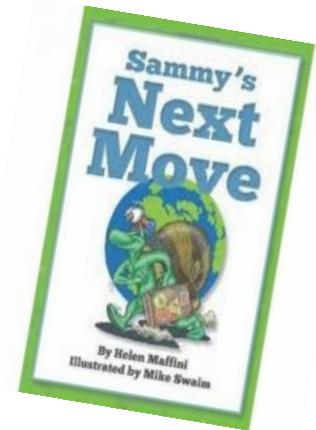
As the children move to a new school or a new country, it is important to support them with this important transition. One way to do this is through literature. We have the book "Sammy's Next Move" by Helen Maffini that we use to read to the children to help them with their transition.

Sammy's Next Move is a wonderful story about a snail named Sammy who lives around the world with his parents. He is a 'Third Culture Kid', TCK or global nomad. He often moves to new countries and has to change schools and

make new friends. Sammy experiences the feelings and thoughts common to children in similar situations. Sammy is a snail and so he carries his home with him wherever he goes, just as a third culture kid does by knowing that home is where their heart is!

The term "Third Culture Kid" a term coined by Dr. Ruth Hill Useem, Professor Emeritus at the Michigan State Univ. Institute for International Studies and a pioneer researcher in the experiences of internationally mobile children. The term TCK suggests that children

who spend a portion of their childhood outside of their own country belong to a separate "third" culture distinct from that of their home or host countries.



## Children's Yoga

Children derive enormous benefits from yoga. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. On Friday's in the Big Kids, I teach yoga. We used the yoga postures as a springboard for exploration of other areas—animal adaptations and behavior and storytelling. I also teach a yoga pose to correspond to the Jolly Phonics letter that the children learn each week. I am using the book "the ABCs of YOGA for KiDS by Teresa Anne Power. During the weekend of May 18-20<sup>th</sup> I attended a "Yoga for Children from Toddlers to Teens" workshop by Samadhi Family Yoga. I learned several new songs that I am looking forward to sharing with the children.

*Lynn*

