



Tran Ngoc Dien Talk



Transitions

Term 3 has been a busy and exciting time at Tran Ngoc Dien. We have welcomed a number of new children (Marja, Zoe, Luna, Christian, Thien Bao, Liam and Yanika), farewelled others (Oliver, Yume), visited the Zoo, and enjoyed exploring the theme of Responsibility.

Changes: As we come to the end of our year at Smartkids we are conscious of the transitions ahead as some of our children head off overseas for holiday, others will pack and move to a new home and country, some will leave to attend a new school, and amongst our older children will be the excitement of moving up to the 'Big Kids' room.

New classes: At Smartkids, we prepare the children who

will move in August to the "Big Kids" for this important transition. Ms Millette, the "Big Kids" teacher, has been spending time in their classroom and facilitating activities with these children. She will also start introducing them to their new room in the final weeks of term so that they will be very familiar with this space when they return to class in August.

Transitions: Transitions for children can be an anxiety provoking experience, yet when supported can be a positive and growing experience.

Transition is a natural part of growing up and of maturing. Handled well it makes stronger people and teaches them how to deal

confidently with transition and new challenges.

We are very proud of the transition to Smartkids made by our newest members at Tran Ngoc Dien. They have settled very well and developed some lovely friendships.

We look forward to seeing you all back in the new school year.

By Jaom Fisher
Location Manager TND

Issue 3, June 2012

Smartkids dates:

- * Fees for new year due: 15th June 2012
- * Last day of Term 3: June 20th 2012
- * First day of Term 1: August 20th 2012
- * Parents coffee morning: August 17th 9-11am
- * Vietnam National Day holiday: September 3rd 2012

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A message from Ms Yoko

Dear Parents,

Another "school year" has come to an end! Time flies!

SmartKids will already celebrate it's 6th 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 Zijlen

Pedagogue

General Director

ICCC SmartKids Ltd.



Getting ready for school

If your child is starting school after the summer, you may be approaching this major milestone with conflicting emotions; excited for the new adventures they'll have and new friends to be made, and sad that there are venturing into the big world without you.

Your child is also bound to be experiencing a variety of emotions about this transition, feeling proud to be a "Big Kid" and worried about starting something unfamiliar.

In the weeks before starting try to keep your efforts low-key. If you make too big a deal out of this milestone, your child may end up being more worried than excited. Here are some fun ideas to keep the focus on fun.

Use **pretend play** to explore the idea of (the big) school. Take turns being

the parent, child and teacher.

Act out common daily routines such as saying goodbye, singing, swimming, circle time, lunch time.

Reassure your child that his/her new school is a good place where he/she will have fun and learn. Answer his/her questions patiently.

Read books about going to school. Choose several books together with your child over the summer before school starts. Ask how your child is feeling.

Visit your child's new school together as this will increase your child's comfort with and confidence in this new setting.

Returning to school/child care after a long break can create similar emotions and anxieties. Preparing and reassuring your child before they start the school year will ease this transition.

(Adapted from www.zerotothree.org)



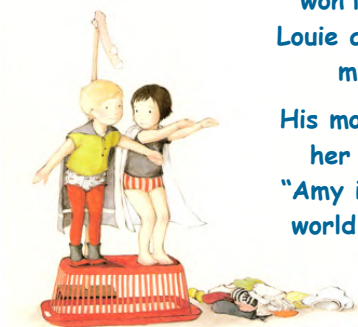
Recommended reading

Amy and Louis

by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood

"If I call Amy really loudly she'll hear me won't she?"
Louie asked his mom.

His mom shook her head.
"Amy is half a world away."



Amy and Louis are next door neighbours and best friends who do everything together. Whenever they want to play they call 'Coo-ee' across the fence, yard or room. Theirs is a life rich in imagination - they build towers as high as the sky and look for magical creatures in clouds.

But one day Amy and her family move to the other side of the world and the children miss each other badly until Louis 'reconnects' with his friend through their special call.

A perfect book for any friends separated by a move, this is the unforgettable story of innocence, play, and a friendship lost and found.

Simple, poignant pictures which capture the essence of childhood and friendships.

Published by Scholastic Press, 2006

(CBCA Book of the Year: Early Childhood, 2007)



Farewells

During this term we have farewelled a number of students and staff.

In April, after three years at Smartkids Ms Pho, our assistant in the Green Room, moved on to another position, and in late May, Ms Nicole who has been assisting in the Yellow Group and with staff professional development returned to Holland.

In the Green group, we farewelled both Oliver and Yume who were returning to Europe.

At the end of this term we will also be farewelling Jessie (Green group) who will move to another school, Mr Hau (reception) who will be moving on to other opportunities, Ms Vy (Yellow group) who is focusing on her studies, and Mr Tuan who is moving across to the Thao Dien location.

