



Tran Ngoc Dien Talk



A New Year

It has been an energetic start to a new year at SmartKids Tran Ngoc Dien with many exciting events and new friends to the classes. The children have quickly settled into their routines and activities with enthusiasm, and they have been very generous and welcoming to all the new children who have commenced this term at SmartKids.

'Developing through my senses'

I've got a clever body, it goes everywhere with me.

It smells and hears and touches, and it can taste and see.

Children, explore, learn and create meaning about their environment through their senses...and through such exploration they also develop and change themselves.

Each term the children will explore their different senses. In Term one, the children have been exploring sight and sound - discussing topics such as who they are, what they look like, what their bodies can do, where they come from, who is in their family, and how to be caring friends.

What have we been up to?

In September, the kiddies celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival dressing up in their Ao Dais, making lanterns, tasting some Moon cakes and dancing to Vietnamese songs. In early October, we celebrated the SmartKids 8th birthday with birthday songs and ice-cream! The children contributed to a special gift for Ms Yoko made by the children in all the classes. Our Parent Information Evening was well attended and focused on what the children are involved with in the "Big Kids" class. We intend to have further sessions throughout the year and welcome suggestions and comments from parents. Dress-up day was also lots of fun!

During October, the children of the Yellow and Green groups began to spend more time together adjusting to the joining of the two classes upon Ms Naomi's departure. The children have adjusted very well to the change and have enjoyed building friendships and exploring different activities and toys! Thank you to the parents for your support of your children during this time. The remainder of the term looks to be as exciting as we head towards the festive period of the year with Christmas and the end of term break.

By Jaom Fisher
Location Manager TND

Year 4, Issue 1
October 2014

Smartkids dates:

- * Last day of Term 1:
December 19th 2014
- * First day of Term 2:
January 13th 2015
- * Tet holiday:
16th-23rd February 2015
- * Non-children Day:
24th February 2015
- * Last day of Term 2:
31st March 2015



Parent Teacher Meetings

YG - 28-29 October

GG/BG - 17-21 November

The teachers will soon plan a schedule on their doors to arrange a time for a private meeting with each child's parents. This is an opportunity for the teachers to share observations of your child and how they are settling in to SmartKids. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have concerning our child.

Children are not involved in these meetings.



"The only way to have a friend is to be one" (Ralph Waldo Emerson)



Friendships, bring pleasure, comfort, sometimes distress, and almost always important opportunities to learn and develop in a social world. Early friendships are extremely valuable as they help to support children's emotional and social development and their understanding of the world around them. Friends, beginning in the toddler stage, can help children feel good about themselves, help the child to adapt more easily to early childhood environments and help the child build self-confidence.

Friendships teach children valuable skills for adulthood and provide a training ground for trying out different ways of relating to others. They learn negotiation skills, how to set up rules, how to weigh alternatives and make decisions when faced with dilemmas.

They experience fear, anger, aggression and rejection. They learn about dealing with conflict, how to win/lose, what's appropriate, what's not. They learn about social standing and power - who's in, who's out, how to lead and how to follow, what's fair and what's not. They learn that different people and situations call for different behaviour and come to understand the viewpoints of other people. Friends provide companionship and stimulation for each other, affection and rejection. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to other children—who's bigger, faster, able to ride a bike. They learn that they are both similar to and different from others. Research shows that children with friends have a greater sense of well-being, better self-esteem and fewer social problems as adults than individuals without friends.

What parents can do:

- Let your child know that you feel friendships are important and worth the effort.
- Respect your child's social style; some children do best with a host of friends, and some do best with a few close friends. Some make friends quickly, and some warm up to friends slowly.
- Find practical ways you can help your child make room in his/her life for being with other children. This is especially important if your child is shy or reluctant about peer interactions. E.g. be flexible about family schedules so that your child can find time to be with friends. Offer your home or offer to accompany children on outings. You might also make arrangements for your family to spend time with another family that has a similar age child. Or, you could make concrete suggestions, such as "You can invite somebody to go to the pool with us on Saturday". If your child is shy, invite just one child over to play. Although some parents may feel as if they are being too pushy by adopting such strategies, research shows that children who were more well adjusted socially had parents who were more involved in their children's social activities.
- Being present during play-dates is important as children learn a great deal from their parents. Intervene where necessary as children often need help learning and practicing their new friendship skills. It is best to help children reach their own solution to a difficulty rather than solving the problem for them.
- Suggesting, when appropriate, that children turn to peers for assistance or to get answers to their questions: "You are wondering how to get the little doll to sit in the high chair? Why don't you ask Jeremy? I just saw him feeding her a few minutes ago."
- Asking children to imagine how their behaviour might affect others or helping them see another's point of view: "I see that you told Greta that she can't play ball with you. How do you think that made her feel?". Or, "Casey is feeling sad because his mum had to go".
- Encouraging children to work together, when appropriate: "Sam and James, could you please put the cars away? Then you can help me get your snack ready."

(Adapted: http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/emotional_foundations_for_learning/communicating/friendships.html)

