

November Newsletter

A great delight is to see our children blooming into a teamwork through our thematic activities and Montessori practices. They have been practicing listening for each other, working with each other while taking turns as well as having fun together!

Scientific Testimony

Latest brain studies are showing that Montessori curriculum greatly aids cognitive development. In fact Dr. Steve Hughes, paediatric neuropsychologist, refers to Montessori as "the original brain-based method of learning."

Dates for your Diary

UAE National Day – 29th Nov. on this day children may come dressed with the UAE flag colours. You are invited to join us on that day to attend the flag walk and to savour black, red, green and white food sent with children from home.

Gentle Reminders

- We have started to upload photos on the iConnect learning journal for our children in different areas of learning in the class. If you wish to contribute to your child's learning journal through the ParentZone then kindly share a photo of your child when you see him/her doing something that surprises you. Together we can provide the very best experience throughout your child's early years.
- For more photos kindly refer to both the screen in the reception area and the Raffles Nursery Facebook page as well as the ParentZone application to find out what your child is working on in class.
- As you may already know, 2017 is declared as the year of Giving in the UAE. Our hope is that we will be able to offer our children an opportunity to contribute in their own way. We will send you details shortly, on how you can support our charity drive if you so wish.



Learning in Action

We have started in October working on our theme 'Healthy Living' during which our children have been developing a sense of belonging to our intimate nursery community.

Our children have enjoyably been practising taking care of their belongings at the arrival time in the morning and at meal times as well as offering a helping hand to their peers when needed. They have been learning to take their shoes off before Monkeynastix session and putting them on once done with the activities.



Infection Control Policy

In order to reduce and minimize the spread of illnesses in the nursery, please refer to our Infection Control Policy which was included in the Welcome Pack you have all received and your support with the implementation of this policy is greatly appreciated. Children must be free of symptoms of sickness for 24 hours (including fever) before returning to the nursery. Please do not send your child to nursery after giving them fever reducing medication in the morning.

Parent involvement and contribution

We welcome any ideas for art & craft/story reading on the National day or any activity related to the event. Should you wish to volunteer for something specific on that day, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Helpful Parenting Tips

“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed”- Maria Montessori

We can involve our children with many of life's daily duties. In addition to helping out in the kitchen, we can involve them in setting the table, sorting silverware or laundry, dusting, helping to wash the car, etc. Maria Montessori's wise words remind us to take the time to show our child, step by step, how to accomplish such tasks successfully while providing the right tools. You would be amazed how much children can do for themselves.

Birthday celebrations

We address birthday celebrations in the Montessori way to help the child to acquire a sense of time passing giving the child a sensorial impression of how the planet and the sun interact with each other. Further details are available on the nursery notice board to make you familiar with our Montessori birthday celebrations.

Monkeynastix, Music & Arabic

With a great enthusiasm and fun our children attend our weekly interactive music/movement and language sessions. They play musical instruments, dance, workout, sing and learn about new arabic vocabulary.

I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate our child who has been working hard to become a nappy-free child and has been using the toilet independently.

Highlights of the previous theme 'I am Special'

To identify our different body parts, children have been participating in marking their peer bodies on the giant sheet and labeling several body parts. As the body systems lend themselves as an extension to this topic, our children have enjoyed feeding the "oesophagus" on the body outline with corn flakes and watching the food running through into the "stomach" to get smashed by the children's little hands. To experiment with the respiratory system, we have been blowing into straws to inflate clear bags while pretending they are lungs.



We have conducted two 'Show & Tell' sessions in which our children had fun introducing their families and identifying proudly through their 5 senses the different features in their favourite objects brought from home.



In the Sensorial area, we have been sniffing tea bags and tasting bitter, sweet as well as salty flavours. Our children did not like bitter and preferred the sweet taste over any other taste! We have been also comparing different textures using our hands and identifying rough, soft, hard, squishy and firm.

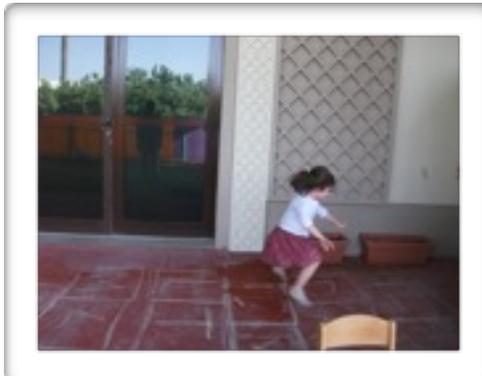


General overview of the current theme 'Healthy Living'

We have covered so far three topics of our new long theme: 'Personal Hygiene, Exercise and Healthy Eating'. Personal hygiene is the act of taking care of our health and well-being by developing personal hygiene habits. It has been a great pleasure to manipulate a couple of tools to discuss maintaining our personal hygiene. We have been also singing the 'Washing hands song' by following the washing hands time line in the toilet to reinforce hand washing sequential order.

For us exercise means playing and being physically active. We have been strengthening our muscles and stretching them through a daily workout in the





playground followed by a couple of yoga poses in the class.

Learning about nutrient elements in food is a bit complex to understand for our youngsters, however, with the collage activity we have had, our children are aware now of the different types of food they need to have in their plates. They have pasted food from whole grains, protein from meat and dairy, as well as fruits and vegetables. To support our topic of 'Healthy eating', we have been kneading whole flour and water to make a thyme bread dough which we have sent home to be baked. Taking this



opportunity, I want to extend a big thank you to our parents who have involved their children with the thyme bread baking process. We will be continuing with our theme 'Healthy Living' discovering more facts related to food.



As the weather is getting cooler, we will be spending an extended time in the playground every

Thursday. We will be busy with dissecting fruits and vegetables and retrieving their seeds to plant them in soil. We will be dedicating some water work to brush carrots and potatoes in the playground before cutting them and sending them home to be cooked. Colours and shapes in food will be our focus as well. A lot more to come during the rest of this term so please keep your eyes out on our mid term plan as well as our inclusive diary. Stay tuned for further details which will be sent via emails close to the upcoming events when needed.



Nursery Events

We have had two big exciting events from which we uploaded a couple of photos on the Raffles Facebook page. One major objective of participating in our nursery



events is to learn how to adapt to unforeseen issues and how to share. Children have enthusiastically participated in the vocal hygiene event where they had the opportunity to play with Freddy and Mickey screening their teeth and feeding them healthy food in order to keep their teeth healthy. Also we have had fun preparing for our 'Orange & Black' movement day. We have been painting, gluing, and using markers to prepare activities to play with on that day. I would like to thank our parents for supporting our healthy eating policy and packing a healthy 'Orange & Black' snack for our children. Our last event for the month of October was the Parent /Teacher conference, we greatly



appreciate the attendance of all our parents.

