

Pre-K 2019-2020



Welcome to October!

The first month of school is a wrap! All the children are now settled into their new class and are starting to know their way around school. 'The Beginning the Year Study' is well on its way to end and so far, the children have enjoyed a variety of activities. We have learned about ourselves, our school environment, who works at school, our daily routines and friendships. We have also had our very first **Early Childhood Assembly** and all the children performed wonderfully! We were impressed with the children's courage to stand and perform in front of so many other children and teachers.

What's happening in October?

We will finish the 'Beginning of the Year Study'. This month we will continue to focus on our daily routines and friendships. **Routine** is essential for a child's development and well-being. It will provide them structure and safety of when to expect what. Each class will work on their visual timetable, sequencing the activities/lessons and practicing the days of the week, months of the year songs. We will also learn how to make friendships and how to maintain them. It's quite the challenge for the children to start a friendship and an even bigger challenge to keep one. The children, often, do not have enough language or vocabulary to express their exact feelings and will therefore use the sentence: You're not my friend! However upsetting this might sound, this is often not what they mean. What they might mean is; *I don't want you to take my toys, I was building a castle with it or I'd rather play alone for a bit, I'll join you later.* It's our job as adults to **guide** and **support this process** and to **provide the right language** so it becomes easier for the children to express their true feelings.

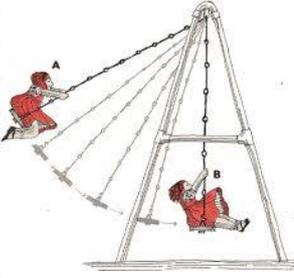
Gingerbread Man Treasure Hunt

As part of the curriculum, we always read the story 'The Gingerbread Man.' Every year this story is of great interest to the children and we have started a Pre-K tradition; The Gingerbread Man Treasure Hunt.

As the children are always in love with the Gingerbread Man story, we will prepare a magical treasure hunt where the children will have to find out what has happened to the missing Gingerbread Man. They will have to use their *critical thinking, Language and Literacy, Math, Physical and Cognitive skills* to solve this mystery. They will learn how to work together as a class, solve problems together, find clues and finally enjoy a wonderful treat once they have solved the mystery!



A NEW STUDY!



What will we be learning about?

This month, we will be studying 'Simple Machines'.

Pre-K children use simple machines as they play and create throughout the day. We have noticed that the children are curious and enjoy experimenting as they use simple machines such as scissors, hole punchers, ramps, slides, and screws. They have shown interest in exploring and modifying simple machines and are curious about how they are used. We think a study of simple machines will be a great opportunity for children to explore their ideas.

We need your help to get our study started. If you can, your help in gathering materials related to simple machines would be valuable in supporting our investigations. We need a variety of materials for the children to explore: tongs, tweezers, lemon presses, and screw-top bottles. If you have any books or pictures related to simple machines, we'd love to borrow those, too. Below is a list of suggested items, but feel free to send other items that would enhance our exploration. Please label your items with your name so we can return them to you at the end of the study. We promise to take good care of them! Also, please let us know if any member of your family works with simple machines (e.g., chef, delivery worker, mover, or carpenter) and would like to share their expertise with the class. We would love to arrange a time for them to join us in our investigations.

Examples of simple machines/vocabulary

Lemon press tweezers tongs pliers scissors screwdriver
Paper towel tubes bottles with screw caps garlic press
Chopsticks nuts and bolts screws jars with lids hole puncher
nutcracker

What You Can Do at Home

Talk with your child about simple machines that you see around your home and neighborhood: screw-top bottles, nuts and bolts, ramps, slides, tongs, tweezers, brooms, etc. Create a list of the simple machines you find. If possible, give your child simple machines that he or she can use and ask questions about how they work. How is the simple machine used? What does it do?

Thank you for participating in our learning. 😊



The Simple Machines Study

Like each study, we start the first week back with an exploration week. The children will get the chance to discuss what they already know and what they'd like to learn, research and explore throughout this study.

There will be a variety of investigations we will work through such as; Exploring simple machines, how do inclined planes help us move things, how are levers used, how do screws hold things together, what are other types of simple machines and how can we use them?

This study will help the children develop their vocabulary throughout the investigations. They will learn the names of the different simple machines, descriptive words and action words for how each simple machine is used. They will get the chance to practice their language skills in the various areas in class.

In the **Writing Area** they can practice writing their names, letters of the alphabet with different pens, pencils, markers, crayons etc. For children that are ready, there will be a variety of visual word cards available so they can practice their writing using vocab words.

They can explore a variety of simple machine at the **Investigation Station** where we will display and collect different simple machines. The children can test them out, explore what they are for and discuss the different uses.

In the **Art Area** the children can continue to explore a variety of visual arts materials and create their own art during **Choice Time**. The children will have access to glue, paper, scissors, small hole punchers, small staplers, cello tape, and junk modelling materials.

The **Reading Area** will have a variety of fiction and non-fiction stories about simple machines to develop the children's imagination and verbal description skills.

In the **Maths Area** we will lay out a variety of materials such as straws, pipe cleaners, buttons and lollipop sticks where the children can explore making 2D/3D shapes, making patterns and practice their counting skills.

It is going to be a busy study and we are looking forward to lots of learning! If you have any old buttons, ribbons, or any other materials we can use throughout this study - Please do send it in! The more material the children have to explore the world around them, the more experiences we can create.

Some useful links to support your child's learning at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSfNYpCprw4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3COvm0TtxWg&list=PLw2cuKNQvZ2d0uOgIKdvYS9VrSJJaYICcW>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoXnhyY5RTk>

Important Dates

10-1	Club Liko Trip PKY & P KR	10/21	Parent- Teacher Conferences
10-2	Club Liko Trip PKB & PKG	10-24	Pizza Day
10-6	Armed Forces Day (holiday)	10/25	Half Term Holiday

Reminders:

- Please **LABEL** all your child's belongings.
- Help your child learn how to open/close their lunch boxes and pack their bag.
- Please send in the requested items and spare clothes a.s.a.p.
- Spare clothes must also be labeled and put in a small closed & labeled bag.
- Bring enough water for the whole day.
- Bring **healthy** food to school. Chocolate, chips, popcorn are not allowed.
- Make sure your child has enough sleep.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Play helps a child....



Build
Confidence

Develop social
skills, language
and
communication

Feel loved,
happy and
safe

Learn about
caring for others
and the
environment

Connect and
refine pathways
in their brain

Develop
physical skills



Behavioral
Perspective Inc.
Lead . Support . Teach . Empower .