

Term 3	House of Colours Newsletter no 1	2016
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Christine O'Connor Nursery Director
Nursery Nurses Examination Board (NNEB)
Special Educational Needs (SEN)
Diploma in Hotel and catering management
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Welcome to your team

Dear parents, the House of Colours staff Nursery team are pleased to announce we have been working on a newsletter that will offer all parents some regular information on the Nursery and about the learning and development for all children in many planned activities. Safety is our first priority in all areas and as such we have a secure door entry with CCTV hallway cameras to monitor all visitors along with clear policies and procedures in place for all Health and Safety issues and fire evacuation of the whole Nursery is carefully planned for and carried out each term.

The Nursery offers the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) we encourage parents to participate in their understanding of the range of planned activities with 17 Early Learning Goals (ELG's) so we can work together for your children to achieve these goals.

This month we are introducing to you all the Senior Management Team (SMT) who are supporting the Teacher's and Learning Support Assistants (LSA's) in the 8 playrooms and 8 classrooms. Welcome to all the parents and children who are returning after the spring break and also to all the new parents and new children who are joining our colourful family - We are sure that the baby, young and older children will have a great learning experience from our "hands on" and "learning through play" approach. Please read all the exciting activities planned at the end of this newsletter. Each month we will introduce new topics to you.

			
Secure entrance for parents and visitors	Colourful and safe garden area	Snowdrop classroom 3 to 3.5 years	Central area for free role play



Suzette Meyers EYFS Coordinator
supporting 4 Floor Supervisors, Teachers
and Learning Support Assistants for all 16 rooms
Diploma in Pre Primary Education
Advanced certificate in barriers to learning
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Supporting staff and children

Hello to you all, my main role is to support ALL the teaching staff with their classroom management and teaching skills. My day is allocated spending time in all the age and stage playrooms and classrooms, ensuring that I am observing good practice. Each morning I teach Brain Gym to the staff and the children - Brain Gym is different movement activities which help us all to wake up and settle into the day ahead allowing more oxygen to flow to the brain, the children have lots of fun doing it!

I check the teaching teams weekly planning with the Floor Supervisors - We Are Learning To (WALT) that it is linked to the 7 areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELG's) and is age appropriate - I participate in circle times, musical sessions and art activities offering practical ideas to improve the daily activities to allow the children to develop to the best of their abilities. I make sure that all the teaching staff gets the support they need in the form of resources, photocopying, laminating, etc. to ensure their day runs smoothly and I organise in-house training for the staff.

I ensure that parents receive regular information letters, and that every child receives a positive learning experience to develop to the fullest of his or her potential. I observe children who staff may feel seem to be experiencing any developmental concerns and feedback to parents and all of the above is done with daily discussions and the support of the Nursery Director and the teaching team.



Early Learning Goal 3
Communication & language
Speaking



Early Learning Goal 4
Mathematics
Shapes, space & measure



Early Learning Goal 12
Physical development
Moving and handling



Early Learning Goal 16
Expressive arts design
Exploring & using materials



Mary Rose Orence
Floor Supervisor - Baby and toddler wing
2 months to 2 years x 4 playrooms
Diploma in Education and Psychology
Email - supervisor1@nurserycolours.com
Contact number - 036712204 extension 258



Key Persons

From the moment any child starts at the Nursery all children are assigned a Key Person. A Key Person has special responsibilities for working with a small number of children, giving them reassurance to feel safe and cared for and build relationships with their parents or carer.

A Key Person may be the Teacher or the Learning Support Assistant. A Key Person plays a vital role in a child's life and needs to demonstrate consistency, sensitivity and be responsive to the child's needs. They must engage, interact and connect with a child and their family. They will observe, assess, record and plan and offer feedback to the Nursery and to the parent.

A Key Person helps the baby, toddler and young child to become familiar within the play/classroom setting and to feel confident and safe within it. A Key Person develops a genuine bond with children and offers a settled, close relationship. When children feel happy and secure in this way they are confident to explore and to try out new things.

Do you know who the Key Person is for your child?



Sarah Romero
Baby Blooms playroom
Key Person Yolanda



Aya Zaky
Poppy playroom
Key Person Mila



Faisal Al Kaabi
Cherry Blossom playroom
Key Person Erma



Nataly Al Sadi
Sunflower Playroom
Key Person Maria Elena



Elize Oosthuizen
Floor Supervisor - Young child wing
2 to 3 years x 4 playrooms
Council Award Care, Health & Education - Level 3
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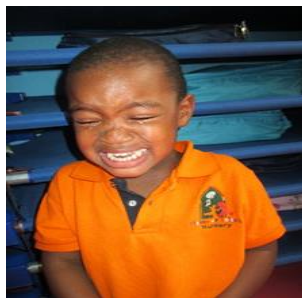
Settling in your child

Going to Nursery for the very first time is a whole new situation, meeting new Teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSA's) other children to share toys with, uniforms, routines and rules, classroom activities etc. This is plenty to handle and a significant point in any child's development. Most children at this age experience stress being separated from their primary caregiver and will worry about their return. Tears, temper tantrums (even vomiting) are the common vent for this stress, sometimes lasting a few days or even weeks. Do not worry; it is very common it is a normal part of growing up! Many children may not exhibit signs right away, but later, and sometimes even weeks after the thrill of the new experience is over. Each child experiences it in a different way and therefore they all need plenty of love, encouragement and reassurance.

Parents, how can you help the Nursery team? Please be confident and calm, as your attitude and anxiety whether it be verbally or non-verbally will be picked up by the child. Please say a quick good-bye once (as in any normal situation), reassure the child that you will be back after lunch or that you will see them later and leave quickly. Saying good-bye over and over and staying on when the child cries only reinforces your insecurities and anxiety and the child will react more on your fears. Please never sneak away.

Sometimes in the early days allow your child to bring in a toy or token item from home that they are comfortable with and can look to for security for a short period of time only if required and this security item can be popped into their bag by a member of staff later. A good idea may be a small family photo that can be stored in their front shirt or dress pocket, or in their Nursery bag.

Family members, nannies or carers are welcome to spend 5-10 minutes each morning in the 1st week of attending Nursery only to help settle in their child if they need it, after this period, it really does not help at all for the child to settle as they get used to the person staying. Children need to "bond with" their key person and will not do so if you stay in the classroom to long every day. It's simple - do not enter the classroom, hand your child's bag to the staff member, kiss your child and leave the staff to care, comfort and encourage the child to enjoy their playful and creative day



Jayden Springs
Lavender playroom
I am new - crying!



Jayden Springs
Lavender playroom
I am settled - smiling!



Zara Hendricks
Rosebud playroom
I am new - crying!



Zara Hendricks
Rosebud playroom
I am settled - smiling!



Joan Ebron
Floor Supervisor - Older child wing
3 to 3.5 years x 4 classrooms
Master of Arts in Education
Major in Special Education
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Creative displays and Learning Journals (LJ's)

Each week all the babies, toddler, young and older children have their art work creations displayed on the notice boards and the interest tables. The children love to find their work through the colours of the paints or materials they have used, by searching for their personal picture or written name.

The staffs change the notice boards and interest tables every week so parents you can also see your child's work. Parents you too can participate, the term time curriculum and the weekly planning is placed on the notice board for your child's room, simply take a photo with your phone and you can follow what your child is learning. The staff plan daily for the 7 areas of learning, songs, stories, art and literacy are all included.

All children have their own personal Learning Journal - this is a record of their journey through the Nursery. The staff take photographs each week, add a description and place them along with samples of their art work in the LJ's. Parents are invited to see the LJ's each term at the planned parent staff meetings and are given the LJ's to take home with them when the child finally leaves the Nursery.



Creative notice board
Snowdrop classroom
Jolly Phonics letter "L"



Creative interest table
Bluebell classroom
Life cycle of the Butterfly



Creative notice board
Daffodil classroom
Seasons - winter



Learning Journal
Weekly photos & art samples for each child



Flor Aisa
Floor Supervisor - Central child wing
3.5 to 4 plus years x 4 classrooms
Master of Arts in Education
Major in Steiner Education
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Mark making

Early mark making starts in our Nursery even with the young babies, it is not the same as writing. A simple finger, hand or foot painting "makes a mark" on the paper with colour paints and their personal prints. It is a sensory and physical experience in which they do not connect that "making marks" can also communicate a meaning. The Nursery introduces the young child to "make marks" (patterns) with their fingers, using foam mixed with colours and sometimes glitters. Using animal and other shape sponges and stamps the children also "make a mark" on the paper. The Nursery plans daily opportunities to use a variety of equipment to practice fine motor skills (small hand muscles) through the following:-

- Thick crayons, pencils and paintbrushes
- Using stamps to make shapes
- Thick colour pencils
- Black boards and chalks
- White boards and markers
- Thin crayons, pencils and paint brushes
- Painting with thin cotton buds
- Clipboards with pens and paper
- Scribbling leads to formed shapes
- Making a mark through tracing patterns then later letters

Over time the child begins to be able to see that different marks can be made. Later the child gives a meaning to the mark that they draw and paint. For example - Rashid said "this is my fish"



Sarah Abuhijleh
Carnation classroom
Blackboard and chalks



Hamed Al Dhaheri
Cornflower classroom
White board and marker



Alia Al Shamsi
Tulip classroom
Painting with a brush



Ryan Fryson
Buttercup classroom
Patterns with foam



Mary Grace Romero - Nursery Nurse
Registered Nurse and HAAD approved
(Health Authority of Abu Dhabi)
Basic Life Support (BLS) certified
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Nurse clinic, housekeeping and food menu

My main role is the clinic Nurse, the clinic is well stocked with appropriate equipment as per the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi (HAAD) guidelines, and the Nursery also has a qualified Doctor that visits the Nursery on a monthly basis ensuring we keep our high standards. I also work in some rooms so the children know me and then they are not afraid of any treatments that I may have to administer.

It is very important for us to minimize the spread of preventable illness in children at our Nursery. We therefore advise all parents to refrain from bringing your child to Nursery if they are suffering from the following symptoms: - Diarrhea, vomiting, fever and symptoms of flu or excess coughing. If your child is sent to Nursery unwell they will not be admitted. Your child must be symptom free for minimum of 48 hours before you may bring your child back to Nursery.

I am also responsible for Health and safety issues along with observing and supporting the housekeeping and kitchen staff in their daily schedules. The Nursery provides the children with an excellent 2 weekly rotating halal menu of healthy snacks, lunch and afternoon tea along with drinks. Our 4 housekeepers work and rotate in the 4 wings following a schedule of jobs aimed to keep all areas clean. The House of Colours has many clear Policies and Procedures in place which protect the Nursery staff, children and parents.



**Welcome to
your clinic**



**Medical storage
cupboards**



**Children's
resting bed**



**Children's
treatment bed**



Term 3
10th April to 30th June 2016
Special events



Dates for your diaries

- All new children will receive "settling in" observations from the Key Person and staff team along with input from the wing Floor Supervisor and Director after 6 weeks of attendance.
- "Step into spring" annual parent and child competition (Baby and toddler wing not yet included)
- 18th April to 31st May - fun with colour days for the young child wing
- Individual and group class photos planned for Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th April 2016
- Parent - staff evening Monday 2nd May from 16.30pm to 19.30pm
- Paddling pool fun x 8 playrooms
 - Sunday 1st May - Baby Blooms and Poppy
 - Monday 2nd May - Cherry Blossom and Sunflower
 - Tuesday 3rd May - Dainty Daisy and Sunbeam
 - Wednesday 4th May - Lavender and Rosebud
- Teacher appreciation week - 8th to 12th May
- Paddling pool fun x 8 classrooms
 - Sunday 15th May - Snowdrop and Bluebell
 - Monday 16th May - Daffodil and Rainbow
 - Tuesday 17th May - Cornflower and Carnation
 - Wednesday 18th May - Tulip and Buttercup
- Ramadan - approximate start date 7th June
- Separate letters will be sent to parents with full details on all of the above near the dates.



Fatima Al Rubaie
Cherry blossom playroom
Splish splash!



Brenique Pringle
Rosebud playroom
Paddling pool fun!



Hamed Al Dhaheri
Bluebell classroom
Water confidence!



Ruwayah Al Kuwaiti
Buttercup classroom
I am a fish!