

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>House of Colours Newsletter</b>	<b>August 2016</b>
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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  
 Email - eyfs.cordinator@nurserycolours.com  
 Contact number - 032612204 extension 656



**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. 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 am part of the Nursery team that meet weekly in each wing to discuss the group planning for the different ages and stages - 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) - 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**



**Elize Oosthuizen**  
**Floor Supervisor - Baby and toddler wing**  
**2 months to 2 years x 4 playrooms**  
**Council Award Care, Health & Education - Level 3**  
**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**



Desire Lottering  
 Floor Supervisor - Young child wing  
 2 to 3 years x 4 playrooms  
 Diploma in Pre Primary Education  
 Email - supervisor2@nurserycolours.com  
 Contact number - 032612204 extension 369



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
**and Special Educational Needs**  
**Email - supervisor3@nurserycolours.com**  
**Contact number - 036712204 extension 147**



**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 Asia**  
Floor Supervisor - Central child wing  
3.5 to 4 plus years x 4 classrooms  
Master of Arts in Education  
Major in Steiner Education  
Email - supervisor4@nurserycolours.com  
Contact number - 032612204 extension 123



### 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  
Email - [nurserynurse@nurserycolours.com](mailto:nurserynurse@nurserycolours.com)  
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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 weekly menu of healthy snacks, lunch and afternoon tea along with all 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 1  
28<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Special events



Dates for your diaries

Parents please visit the Nursery website to see our academic calendar for 2016 - 2017

- 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.
- EID Al Adha closed (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016)
- Yellow dress up Day- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Hijiri Islamic New year closed - 2<sup>nd</sup> October
- Parents provide fruits - Healthy day - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October
- Blue dress up day- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October
- Indian Diwali- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- UAE Flag day- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Individual and group photograph - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Orange Day- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Parent staff team meeting - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 15:30 until 18:30pm
- UAE 45<sup>th</sup> Martyrs Day - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November (closed Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Prophets Birthday - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December (closed x 1 day)
- End of term children and staff party Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Nursery closes on the Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Separate letters will be sent to parents with full details on all of the above near the dates.



EID Al Adha  
Childrens party  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September



Indian Diwali  
Festival of light  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October



United Arab Emirates  
Flag day  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November



United Arab Emirates  
45<sup>th</sup> National day  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November