

Term 1	House of Colours Newsletter	September 2018
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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 Nursery will send you a newsletter each term to introduce to you the staff and that will offer all parents some information on the Nursery about the care 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 term 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Secure entrance for parents and visitors</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Colourful and safe garden area</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Snowdrop classroom 3 to 3.5 years</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Central area for free role play</p>



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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 on regular "walk rounds" ensuring that I am observing good practice, along with managing the administration team and Support Services team - our Nursery Nurse in the clinic with her team of housekeepers and kitchen staff.

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 some 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 and external training for the staff.

I ensure that parents receive regular information letters to participate in their child's planned topics and events, 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 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
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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



Fatima Al Rubaei
Sunflower Playroom
Key Person Maria Elena



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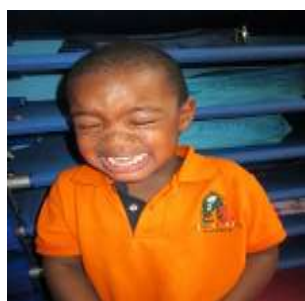
Settling in your child

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 too 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!

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



Joan Ebron
Floor Supervisor - Older child wing
3 to 3.5 years x 4 classrooms
Master of Arts in 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



Imelda Dy
 Floor Supervisor - Central child wing
 3.5 to 4 plus years x 4 classrooms
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 Major in Mathematics
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**Creative notice board
 Snowdrop classroom
 Jolly Phonics letter "L"**

**Creative interest table
 Bluebell classroom
 Life cycle of Caterpillar
 to a Butterfly**

**Creative notice board
 Daffodil classroom
 Seasons - winter**

**Learning Journal
 Weekly photos & art
 samples for each child**



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 1
September to December 2018
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 regular attendance.

September

Wednesday 26th - Fruit day

October

Wednesday 3rd - Yellow dress up day

Thursday 4th - World Teachers day

Wednesday 24th - United Nations Day

November

Thursday 1st - UAE Flag day

Wednesday 7th - Diwali - Light up the world with love

Wednesday 7th - Parent staff evening - 15.30pm to 18.00pm

Wednesday 7th - Fire Evacuation practice at 10.00am

Wednesday 14th Orange dress up day

18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd - Transition days

Thursday 29th - 47th UAE National day

December

Wednesday 12th - End of term party

- Separate letters will be sent to parents with full details on all of the above near the dates.
- A new newsletter of information will be posted for each term - The children and the staff will look forward to the planned paddling pool days and the ice cream after wards!



Fatima Al Rubaie
Sunflower playroom
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!

