



**Kid Country**  
**CHILDCARE**

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 10 VOLUME 17

OCTOBER 2018

*Welcome  
 fall*

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1st -- Brynn D.
- 2nd -- Madison H.
- 3rd -- Niclaus H.
- 3rd -- Lyla H.
- 3rd -- Miss Krynn
- 5th -- Maggie R.
- 6th -- Hunter D.
- 9th -- Timmy H.
- 17th -- JJ C.
- 17th -- Bentley S.
- 19th -- Abriella R.
- 19th -- Iris N.
- 24th -- Jake O.
- 25th -- Andrew S.
- 26th -- Sabrina R.
- 30th -- Miss Krista

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

Miss Melissa



## Social Skills are the Key

**M**y goal here at Kid Country is for your children to leave here as confident, well-adjusted children that love school! Every day I see more and more research that tells us the single best indicator of school success is great social skills. At Kid Country, we have always focused on social skills, as we believe that children that are well adjusted in the classroom are then able to learn the academic side of things.

What does all this mean for your child? As stated in the Creative Curriculum Objectives for Development & Learning, young children’s social-emotional development involves learning how to understand their own and others’ feelings, regulate and express their emotions appropriately, build relationships with others, and interact in groups. Basically, we want your child to be able to function appropriately within a group – whether that group is here at Kid Country, in a first or second grade classroom, or a family dinner at grandma’s house. And guess what? These skills translate into successful employees later in life!

What does all this social-emotional learning look like in our classrooms? Of course, it looks different in every classroom and age group, but the goal is all the same. For instance, one of our objectives is to help children regulate their own emotions and behaviors. A baby that is learning to manage his/her own feelings calms himself when gently touched or is soothed when picked up. Controlling his/her strong emotions as a preschooler is observed when a child tells another “I’m mad you are not sharing the blocks, I’m not going to play with you” and then moves to another area. Our classroom curriculum is set up to assist every child go

from crying because another child took their toy to peacefully talking out their differences with another child and coming up with a solution that works for everyone. Again, life skills that will help your child be a success!

You are probably now asking “What can I do at home to help?” The National Association for the Education of Young Children suggests:

- **Think out loud.** When your child hears your thinking process, it helps her understand how to cope with frustration and solve problems: “Whoops. My favorite shopping bag has a hole in it. I’d better take another one with me to the grocery store.”
- **Do a job together.** Instead of asking your child to do a chore alone, do it with her. The two of you might fold laundry, set the table, rake leaves, or paint a wall. Help your child join in by shortening the handle of a broom to make it child-size or providing a small paintbrush or roller.
- **Play games.** Card and board games and outdoor games such as tag or hop-scotch offer built-in opportunities for helping children learn to take turns, cooperate, handle frustration, and more. While playing games together, focus on fun instead of winning or losing.

I would add modeling to that list from NAEYC. Model the behaviors you want to see in your child and allow your child to see your emotions and how you appropriately deal with those emotions. And don’t forget that parenting is a tough job! No one does it perfectly, and many of us (myself included) feel defeated at times. However, tomorrow is always a new day!

*Donna*

# GREEN FROGS

The month of September brought us our first study in the Green Frog room: shapes and colors! The Green Frogs enjoyed many fun activities during this study as they expanded their knowledge on many familiar shapes and colors and learned a few new ones as well!

We began our study by talking about circles and semicircles. The Frogs searched our classroom high and low for objects shaped like circles and semicircles and even discovered that two semicircles make a circle! We also learned about squares and rectangles. The Frogs put their creativity to the test as they each used squares and rectangles of different sizes and colors to create a vehicle of their choice. The Frogs also worked their gross motor skills as they created squares and rectangles using only their bodies!

The Green Frogs moved onto more complex shapes as we learned about stars, hearts, ovals and octagons. As we learned about each shape, the Frogs explored similarities and differences such as the number of sides, and whether they had any points. Then we enjoyed singing many wonderful songs such as *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and *Humpty Dumpty* as we learned about ovals and stars and we made

# Blue Dolphins

This month in the Blue Dolphin classroom we have been all about going outside, as summer is coming to an end and fall is approaching with that chilly air! Fall inevitably means that our time outdoors is coming to an end, which means the Blue Dolphins will soak up as much outdoor time as possible while we can!

The children have been loving going out to the side yard and playing a friendly game of soccer. The children not only love the game of soccer, but we've been teaching them about the rules of the game, and instilling teamwork! Teamwork is a great skill that the children will use throughout their life – in school, at work and at play! As you know, going outside is important for children so that they can use their gross motor muscles. But, after sitting inside in class all day, the fresh air and the ability to run and move is just as important! The Blue Dolphins will be talking about the Fall season in the coming weeks and are excited to be able to make a Fall representation of what fall means to them. We can't wait to see what the children put together!

Miss Pam and Miss Rhonda

many unique crafts such as octagon

faces and shape free art. The Frogs had many wonderful discussions with the teachers about shapes that they see in everyday life. We talked about octagonal stop signs, circular car wheels, and rectangular doors!

We finished up the month of September by doing a shape review of everything that we had learned! The Frogs had a blast hunting through the room to find toys of different shapes as we built our classroom shape graph. We pretended to be architects as we used our best building skills to create large structures using our wooden blocks. The Frogs talked about all of the shapes that

they used to build their structures and even counted the number of blocks that they used! We exercised our gross motor muscles as we participated in several hallway



activities such as shape hopscotch, and hallway shape walk. The Frogs loved playing on our shape hopscotch course in the

hallway as they jumped from one shape to the next as the teacher prompted. During our shape walk, the Frogs put their balancing skills to the test as they tried to walk around the border of each shape created by narrow tape line.

Miss Fran, Miss Wendy and Miss Jessica

# YELLOW DUCKS

Towards the end of the month of September, cooler weather was finally introduced to the Yellow Ducks room. This was the perfect opportunity for the Ducks to enjoy lots of outside time. The babies love exploring the little playground and all the equipment and getting to interact with their Purple Parrots and Red Robins friends.

One of the highlights of the month of September was Family Fun Night! This was

the perfect opportunity for the parents and the students to meet the teachers and also play many fun games! The parent's involvement in their child's activities both at school and at home help them developmentally grow stronger. The Ducks created for football feet and also painted some fun jerseys for Family Fun Night as well! The Ducks love the one on one interaction that comes with painting with their teachers.

Although the month of September is coming to an end, and the colder weather is setting in, the Ducks teachers hope to continue playing outside and growing both physically and mentally.

Miss Krista, Miss Hailey and Miss Leslie





# Blue Gills

As we say goodbye to September, we must thank Mother Nature for the extra nice days to spend time outside. We were able to work on a lot of our large motor skills that we won't be able to do in the coming months. We played games like Red Light Green Light and Duck Duck Goose. We learned how to catch a ball, and then how to kick it while it was moving. We spent time in the sandbox learning new measurement vocabulary like empty, full, and half way. Vocabulary that could then be heard in the classroom at our sand table. Fun times for sure!

In the classroom, we did a study of "All About Me". The children were able to tell the other children all about themselves and their families. We graphed eye colors, hair colors, how many people live in our houses, and whether or not we have pets. The kids enjoyed talking about themselves daily in front of the group, and it really helped the children to get to know their peers names better as we started the new school year. As the month progressed, we could definitely see friendships blossom and small groups of children forming to play on a regular basis. As a whole, they love playing large group games where they are all involved, and never leave



anyone out. It was a great month of friendship!

To round out our month, we started learning about Zoo Animals. We learned how to compare animals from the pachyderm house and find out why they are so different but so much the same. We also had fun with animals from the Large Cats House talking about their fur and the different patterns. It was a roaring good time! It's been a busy yet exciting first month and we can't wait for what October brings!

Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Pam



**WE RAISED OVER \$1,100  
FROM THE BASKET RAFFLE  
AND BAKE SALE!**

# PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots had a blast singing their hearts out this month. Some of the songs we learned were *Baby Shark*, *I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee*, *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider*, *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, *If You're Happy and You Know It*, and *The Wheels On The Bus*. While singing songs with their classmates, the toddlers develop their social and language skills.

The toddlers created fun art projects that corresponded to each song. For *Baby Shark*, the toddlers strengthened their fine motor skills by making their own ocean on contact paper using different sizes of tissue paper. *Baby Shark* is one of the Purple Parrots' favorite songs. The toddlers worked on their pincer grip when they created their own paper plate spider web for *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider*. The toddlers practiced their pincer grip by using markers to color the plate.

A fun gross motor activity the toddlers enjoyed was seeking the stars from *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* from around the classroom. The toddlers jumped, reached, and hopped to get the stars. Then they used their traveling skills to transfer the stars to a piece of paper.

During this month, the teachers worked with the toddlers on counting up to five. Five bumble bees and five spiders were taped to each table as the toddlers gathered around and counted them as a group. The toddlers also added "pull" and "sad" to their sign language vocabulary. Sign language is a great opportunity for the toddlers to communicate with one another. The toddlers cannot wait to learn new songs and see what is planned for next month.

Miss Kim, Miss Stacy, Miss Kathy, Miss Marisa and Miss Stephanie

# ORANGE OWLS

As we became fully adjusted to being Orange Owls, we were able to really get into our studies this month. We began with weather. We knew quite a bit about weather already -- the different types, temperatures, and what we normally see here in Illinois. As we went through this study we took the opportunity to go in depth about various weather phenomenon's we do not get to see in Illinois. The class favorites were hurricanes and hail.

We discussed that hurricanes are similar to tornados, in the fact that they are extremely windy, have an "eye", and go "in circles", but are very different in the fact that hurricanes need large bodies of water to be produced and survive. Though we may see hail here in Illinois from time to time, these Orange Owls have not yet had that opportunity! We learned how hail is formed from cold air traveling abruptly into a storm causing the rain to freeze and fall as little pieces of ice. With hail we were able to discuss

temperature and how big of a role it plays in many parts of weather. We wrapped up weather just as the cool breezes were greeting us on the playground and welcoming us to fall.

As we welcomed fall with open arms we ventured into

apples. To begin, the Owls were able to tell all about how apples grow, what colors they can be, and that we can cook them in many ways. With these thoughts the Owls became very interested in all that can be cooked and made with the apples themselves, so that led



us into our week of all things apple tasting! Each Owl had multiple opportunities to taste, prep, mix, and create with apples we then ate. Encouraging the Owls to have this hands-on cooking opportunity helped them focus on measuring, following multi-step directions, and how they too can accomplish a task at hand independently! This was a huge hit with each of them as we ate our way through all the different preparations of apples and were able to vote for our favorites along the way! Miss Bailey, Miss Melissa, Miss Krynn and Miss Donna K.



# RED ROBINS

The new Red Robins had a great first full month. We started the month off by taking some time to get familiar with the new room and the toys that are in it. The Red Robins did a lot of station play to experience all the different toys, and arts and crafts that the Red Robins room has to offer.

We have spent a lot of time outside enjoying the weather and playing on the big playground. The big playground has a sandbox, bikes, scooters and bigger slides. The new Red Robins love playing on the bigger playground. After we got used to the room, the Red Robins started getting ready for family fun night. We

created our own football helmets and had the opportunity to play with footballs outside. We all had a blast going to each room and playing all the games.

The Red Robins are spending a lot of time working on sitting at the table, using a fork or spoon, and cleaning up after

ourselves. The Red Robins have taken huge strides and will soon be moving on to cleaning up after they are done playing with toys and keeping the toys in the same area. The Red Robins room is looking forward to another great month full of new things! Miss Emily, Miss Holly and Miss Jenna

# Kid Calendar



Week of 10/1	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday, 10/1	Yankee Candle and Little Caesar's Fundraiser Kick-Off
Tuesday, 10/2	Grandparent Teas 9:30a Green Frogs 3p Yellow Ducks, Purple Parrots
Wednesday, 10/3	Grandparent Teas 9:30a Orange Owls 11a Blue Gills 3p Red Robins
Monday, 10/8	Online Photo Orders Due
Thursday, 10/11	CLOSED Inservice Day
Tuesday, 10/16	Fall Field Trip (Green Frogs, Orange Owls, Blue Gills)
Week of 10/22	Fundraiser Orders Due
Wednesday, 10/31	Helping Hands Screenings Halloween Parties CLOSING AT 5P