



CROSSINGS

Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

May...it means so many things here at Kid Country. End of the school year. Graduation. Teacher appreciation. Good-byes to children and families leaving us.

One thing that is always consistent here at Kid Country is our HEART! And this month pulls at our heart a whole lot! Keep a close eye on your emails as you receive information about all our events this month!

Our Graduation and Spring Show is of course our main event of the year! We are once again going to host our Graduation ceremony and Spring Show here at Kid Country in our "backyard". Our ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 7p and every family is welcome to invite 4-6 people to attend. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready to listen to the Green Frogs, Orange Owls and Blue Gills sing some songs and then cheer on our graduates as they accept their diplomas!

We will have plenty of photo opportunities as well. Congratulations to our 20th Class in 2022!

As we wind down to the final month before our big 20th Anniversary Celebration, be sure to watch our Facebook page for some fun Kid Country trivia!

Do us a favor and share all our anniversary posts on your own personal pages so we can reach as many past families as possible! Of course, don't forget to have Friday afternoon, June 3 on your calendar! We have some special games, food and give-aways planned and would love for you to join us any time between 4:30p-7:30p that afternoon.

Enjoy this month full of celebrations! We wish the absolute best to all our Kid Country children that will be leaving us at the end of May and to those graduating and heading off to kindergarten in the fall! We will miss you!

Donna
Miss Donna



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To all those celebrating May Birthdays!

Parker C. - 1st
Levi M. - 3rd
Elizabeth P. - 4th
Casey P. - 4th
Miss Wendy - 4th
Miss Kelly - 5th
Kylee S. - 10th

Miss Emily - 10th
Abigail M. - 12th
Brenden S. - 13th
Miss Kelsey - 14th
Isabella S. - 17th
Miss Michelle - 29th
Bach G - 30th
Olivia G. - 31st



YELLOW DUCKS

April was a month of celebration in the Yellow Ducks room as we prepared for the arrival of spring, beginning with our "In the Sky" unit.

This unit assisted in fostering language development and encouraged the use of sign language as the teachers introduced new concepts such as weather, animals and plants. Infants learn language by taking in and processing information through their senses of hearing and sight. To support this, the Yellow Ducks teachers incorporated sensory art activities such as footprint birds, butterflies, and bunnies. These crafts provided an opportunity for the Ducks to expand their vocabulary as the teachers conversed with them about the different characteristics of each animal. The teachers continued to reintroduce these concepts through outdoor play, books and songs to familiarize the children with their new words.

In addition to the spring activities, the Ducks participated in a variety of fun activities to honor Week of the Young Child. Week of the Young Child celebrates early learning and focuses on recognizing the needs of young children, one being providing opportunities to use their imaginations. The Ducks took part in various activities meant to encourage creativity and engage their senses, such as exploring different sounds through musical instrument play, building a fruity dessert, and dressing up in colorful costumes. While participating in these activities, the teachers used descriptive language in their discussions with the Ducks to help them connect new words to their sensory experiences. You can support this by chatting with your little Duck and responding when your child communicates.

Overall, the month of April brought many new experiences and learning opportunities. The coming of spring allowed the teachers to introduce new words and topics to promote language learning and brain development. We are excited to see what new opportunities the month of May brings to the Yellow Ducks classroom!

Miss Karen, Miss Amy, and Miss Gina

PURPLE PARROTS

Spring has sprung in the Purple Parrots classroom! And April showers was the theme. Rain, Rain Go Away and The Itsy-Bitsy Spider were popular songs for the month. The Purple Parrots also had a blast celebrating Week of the Young Child!

The Purple Parrots sprung into spring by becoming little artists creating bunnies, paper plate umbrellas, stamped with peeps, and made handprint rain clouds. These are just a few crafts that the Purple Parrots created throughout the month of April. The visual arts allow our Purple Parrots to be creative in their own ways, enhance their color recognition, and build on their language and sensory skills.



Purple Parrots continued...

The Purple Parrots had a week all about them, Week of the Young Child! During this week, the Parrots became little musicians by creating their own maracas and dancing their little hearts out. Music is a way for toddlers to test out their balance and gross motor skills. For Tasty Tuesday, the Purple Parrots enjoyed a tasty treat, mud cups! Everyone came in dressed all wacky for Wacky Wednesday. For Artsy Thursday, the Purple Parrots did something a little different and painted with toothbrushes! We wrapped up the week with family Friday/Class color day!

We are excited to see what the month of May has in store for us. Just remember April showers bring May flowers! The Purple Parrots will be learning all about flowers and spring next month!

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S, Ms. Emily K, Ms. Julie

Spring



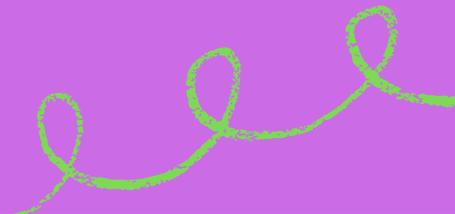
RED ROBINS

The Red Robins explored on the farm in the month of April! The children learned all about what grows on a farm, what animals live on a farm, and the buildings that reside on a farm such as barns and silos. The Robins created barns using popsicle sticks as we read Big Red Barn. Our fine motor skills enhanced as the children created various farm themed art. One of the activities the Robins enjoyed was creating sheep using the small muscles of their hands and fingers to pull apart a cotton ball and stick it to contact paper to explore the feel of sheep's wool. The Robins enjoyed discovering facts about each animal on the farm and the importance of each animal and what they might provide for us – such as getting milk from a cow. Making these connections to their environment promote the Robins' cognitive skills as they learn new information about everyday concepts.



The Robins built upon their language development as they learned new words about the farm. The children were encouraged to draw a farm and discuss with their teachers all about the animals and crops on their farms. The Red Robins also enjoyed sensory activities this month which included feeding the farm animals and counting each scoop. The Robins were very curious about painting with corn cobs and seeing the cause-and-effect relationship and pattern that was created by rolling corn onto paper. We wrapped up our farm unit by exploring all about tractors and planting crops. The children had an exciting time during Week of the Young Child as we celebrated one another. The children created musical instruments, painted masterpieces using unusual art materials, and helped the classroom create a yummy special treat. The Robins are looking forward to all things spring and spending more time outdoors as the weather warms up.

**Ms. Kelly, Ms. Julian,
Ms. Grace & Ms. McKenzie**





GREEN FROGS

With their study of Space coming to an end, the Green Frogs spent the month of April continuing to explore the stars and planets in the galaxy! The Green Frog astronauts were excited to participate in all the engaging activities, such as the Galaxy Blackhole and Crater Creation, which helped them fully understand the different concepts of space! They used their gross motor, and social-emotional skills, to take turns throwing meteor rocks made from tinfoil into the Galaxy's Blackhole!

The Green Frogs also talked about how craters are created when asteroids hit the surface of planets and the moon. To help them envision the process, the Green Frogs conducted an experiment in which they dropped marbles onto sand and watched the crater form. This helped to engage physical development as they balanced themselves and used their hand-eye coordination to aim the marble into the sand bin. To complete the Space unit, the Green Frogs had fun using their creative minds and fine-motor skills to put together some silly Space Aliens. Laughs and giggles filled the classroom, as the Green Frogs put on their alien's silly outfits and faces! After being up in space for so long, the Green Frogs look forward to coming back down to Earth and visiting the Rainforest!



Before jumping into the next study, the Green Frogs celebrated the Week of the Young Child! Each day brought new and exciting activities! For Music Monday, the Green Frogs created maracas and used them for Music and Movement! On Tasty Tuesday, the Green Frogs independently created fruit pizzas, where they spread vanilla frosting on a sugar cookie and topped them off with fruit of their choice. Wacky Wednesday had the Green Frogs dressing in silly, mismatched outfits! The Green Frogs spent Artsy Thursday creating wonderful masterpieces using toothbrushes to spread paint across their paper. The Green Frogs spent Family Friday showing off their family photos and sharing with friends all about their wonderful families!

**Ms. Fran, Ms. Valeria
and Ms. Kelsey**



ORANGE OWLS

The Owls started off this month with all thing's transportation! We flew high, dove low, and zoomed cross country as we discussed how each mode of transportation works, are built, and why we need each of them. The Owls especially loved being able to put their skills to the test as they created their own boats, planes, and racetracks. To create their boats the Owls were encouraged to choose various parts of a water bottle, tape, paper, straws, and other forms of media. With these items they were able to create a boat that would float across our sensory table filled with water. Some knew that adding paper would be detrimental while others wanted to try paper along with tape to see if it would become water resistant. This project was a great way to encourage hands on cause and effect as well as critical thinking.

We closed out the month venturing into building and construction. A lot of talk about construction was brought up while adventuring in our modes of transportation. Within these talks it lead our Owls right into how buildings are made, why each one is important, and both tools and materials needed to create such grand structures!

**Ms. Bailey, Ms. Holly,
Ms. Victoria**



BLUE GILLS

The Week of the Young Child is a special time of year. It celebrates life's most precious gift – children. During this week, we wanted to make this celebration extra special so we provided activities and themed days to spice it up. Every day was something new and exciting. What a fun week we had. Thank you to all who participated with our ice cream social day, it's always a favorite. We hope that your children enjoyed this special week as much as we did. Our Study of Weather this month was perfect. The children had a wide variety of weather patterns to learn about as we experienced snow, rain, thunder and lightning, and sunny days.

We used our scientific inquiry skills to learn all about how the Earth's water cycle works with our weather patterns, and what causes thunder and lightning. We had fun simulating our own tornadoes as we got centrifugal force to work with a huge bowl and a few marbles. Throughout the few weeks of studying weather, we took time to journal all that was going on. We used our emergent writing skills to write the weather words, and dates they were happening. Finally, as the weather got a little nicer, we were able to walk the property and really see how weather affects nature as a whole. We are all very fortunate to have the pretty Earth that surrounds us!

Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Wendy

BLUE DOLPHINS

April bloomed with more artistic activities for the Blue Dolphins. The current group of Blue Dolphins flourish when given opportunities to engage all creative allies. April provided a week of Blue Dolphins to spend their day at Kid Country as the “big kid” schools were closed for spring break. The children and teachers took full advantage of the extra time. They made decorations for the upcoming celebration of Easter and created art out of a single wavy line.

This activity encompassed Kid Country’s creative curriculum in all sense. The children were only given a wavy line to bring their visions to life. There was not any limits to what materials or ideas. The teachers loved seeing the variety of creations each child produced.

In addition, the Blue Dolphins played new games to engage with one another. The fun break from everyday school to reconnect as a classroom was exactly what this spring season needed for the Blue Dolphins.

The Blue Dolphins have begun their count down to summer and hardly hold their excitement for special events at Kid Country.

Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Donna K., and Ms. Wendy



May Happenings

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE

- 2nd - 5th Spring Photos w/ Brandy Walsh Photography
- 9th - 12th Parent Teacher Conferences
- 16th - 20th Teacher Appreciation Week
- 25th Spring Show & Graduation Ceremony
- 30th Memorial Day - Kid Country Closed

CELEBRATING 20
EXTRAORDINARY YEARS!
2002 - 2022

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Kid Country
CHILDCARE

OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD
4:30 - 7:30PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
GAMES, FOOD AND KID COUNTRY FUN!

14935 West Bruns Road • Manhattan
kidcountrymanhattan.com

