



**JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

- 7th -- Miss Rhonda
- 8th -- Braedan H.
- 9th -- Miss Kathy
- 11th -- Brynley B.
- 13th -- Anna C.
- 18th -- Miss Karen
- 22nd -- Elijah M.
- 23rd -- Brielle B.
- 25th -- Amber A.
- 25th -- Bradley K.
- 29th -- Evelyn F.
- 31st -- Alice M.
- 31st -- Harper G.



## Booming Enrollment!

It is so nice to see all the children having a great summer here at Kid Country! Even with all the rain, we are still having a great time! Obstacle courses, tie-dye towels, masterpiece cookies, and good ol' fashioned playground time are just a few of the things putting smiles on the children's faces!

We will, of course, be continuing our special activities into July to continue the fun! A bubble day, building themed cardboard houses, ice cream socials, exotic animals and carnival day are just some of the special events we have planned!

Kid Country is going to be getting a bit of a face lift during July and August! We will be installing new epoxy floors in our bathrooms, laundry and kitchen. After that is complete, vinyl plank flooring will be installed in the rest of the building to replace our old, dingy commercial tile. While the work will be completed on the weekends and evenings, I still ask for patience with our "mess" as we move through this process. Getting this done while still operating daily is going to be a challenge, but the update will be so worth the fuss!

Our enrollment is booming! Thank you to everyone that has given us 5-star reviews and talking about us to your friends and neighbors! You've been driving people through the door! We

have welcomed 17 new children this summer, and currently have 23 more children joining us in August! How exciting!

Our rooms are getting close to capacity, so if you are aware of any changes you may need to your child's schedule, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible. Our infant room is bursting at the seams as well! Be sure to let us know just as soon as you know that you are expecting! The sooner we have you on our radar, the more likely we can accommodate. Thank you again for always supporting Kid Country and sharing your positive reviews! We feel blessed to have earned your trust and that of so many Manhattan families!

I hope that you are enjoying your summer! Be sure to take the time to relax and just enjoy your children and the slower pace of summer! Be sure to have your children share pictures of your vacations with their classrooms, we would love to see the fun you're having!

*Danna*

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# Blue Dolphins

After a crazy school year, the Blue Dolphins deserved to start their summer off at Kid Country with fun, outside time, and creative activities. The Blue Dolphins explored the art of self-portraits, the children were supplied with mirrors to view themselves. They had various options of art utensils to utilize to create a picture of their best selves. The children worked hard on paying attention to all the details and direction of the different features of their reflection. The portraits are currently on display in the hallway for viewing.

To continue the fun and creativity in the Blue Dolphin classroom, they mastered making cookie pizzas. Ms. Rhonda prepared round sugar cookies, red frosting for "the sauce," shaved white chocolate for "cheese," red chocolate melts for "pepperoni," and other colorful candies for the "vegetables." It was the talk of the day as the children enjoyed their cookie pizzas with pride.

The weather was not in the favor of completing the first scheduled field trip, but the Blue Dolphins made the best of their rainy day. The Blue Dolphins, Orange Owls, and Green Frogs collaborated with one

another to create an epic obstacle course. This amazing obstacle course traveled through all three classrooms to create a large circular course. The Blue Dolphins conquered the course with big smiles and showed kindness is helping the younger children complete the obstacle course when necessary.

Overall, June was a month to remember in the Blue Dolphin classroom filled with many activities to keep all children engaged. They also enjoyed the interactions with the younger children and modeled being great "big kids" of the building. The Blue Dolphins are more than excited

to continue their experiences and field trip adventures as the summer continues!  
Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Wendy, and Ms. Donna K.



# PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots could think of nothing better than kickstarting our summer fun with an ice cream theme for the month of June! This theme paired well with all the water days, specials treat, and extra summer activities we took part in that made such a great start to an unforgettable summer. This school year, the Purple Parrots accomplished individual learning and personal growth so for June we really focused on the visual arts and positive group interaction.

The visual arts can be described as toddler activities such as painting, drawing, and classroom crafts. The Purple Parrots were able to focus on the visual arts this month by making cotton ball ice cream cones, setting up an ice cream shop through the various items added to our dramatic play area, and even make ice cream treats to enjoy!

Unbelievable learning occurred when the children can be immersed in creating these art activities! The Purple Parrots enhanced their development in color recognition, fine motor skills, and engagement by participating in the lessons. Being able to start identifying colors, using their hands with purpose/accuracy, and being able to finish a project are the first steps in many higher-level concepts that are introduced in the Red Robins classroom and then perfected as they grow!

The Purple Parrots also accomplished many objectives surrounding positive group interactions with teachers and peers. The many waters days we had this month, the exploration of the ice cream theme, and sharing of all the new summer materials really gave our class a ton of bonding and friendship time. We shared many laughs and positive conversation. Group interaction is so important at the toddler level because this is the time the children are starting to figure out who they are and what they like which will form the person they will become later in life. By giving them many opportunities for positive interaction it reinforces manners, compassion, and a constructive attitude that will help them succeed!

We had so much fun with our ice cream theme and the kickoff of summer it almost felt like every day was a vacation!

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S., Ms. Christal, and Ms. Kelly



# RED ROBINS

June kicked off the summer fun at Kid Country Childcare. The Red Robins discovered a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and even a few yummy desserts. The Robins had fun discussing the various food groups and what they do for our bodies. To further the focus on certain food groups, the garden allowed for us to take a walk out to the vegetables and talk about how they grow and flourish with the introduction of different fun facts about how they grow, what they taste like, and the various dishes you can make with them.

Also, this month, we had many different summer activities that the Robins were able to participate in. For starters, HHH Ranch brought a petting zoo to our side yard! This included goats, donkeys, alpacas, ducks, and bunnies! The Robins were allowed to hold the chicks, feed the animals, and pet each individual animal. Some of the animals even climbed on the tables and were trying to eat the leaves off the trees! Once we were done with the petting zoo, the Robins had their turn in painting steppingstones, and helping with tie-dyeing their own personalized beach towels.

Next month, the Robins will continue their summer festivities by participating in

different activities here at Kid Country. The Red Robins will also continue our study of food as we introduce new and yummy treats for our Robins to try! The exploration of new foods and engaging in the fun facts about each food encompasses the expansion of vocabulary for each child. The Red Robins teachers' goals are to encourage curiosity by introducing new textures, tastes, vocabulary, and concepts while having fun!

Ms. Krista, Ms. Jasmine, and Ms. Jenna



# YELLOW DUCKS

This month the Yellow Ducks were introduced to interactive play.

Interactive play encourages socialization which is an impactful method for the Ducks to feel like they are a part of a community. Socialization play exposes the children to new situations. Being around other babies and toddlers helps the Ducks navigate new environments, play with different toys and even learn new social cues. Socialization play allows the Ducks to become comfortable in different

environments and helps to build their self-esteem.

The Ducks incorporated socialization play through water day. The Ducks traveled to the side yard with the Purple Parrots and splashed around in the sprinklers and water tables. This was an effective activity to gain comfort with the Purple Parrots teachers and children. Another interactive play

activity the Ducks did was an ice cream social. The Yellow Ducks and Purple Parrots classes met on the playground and enjoyed ice cream sundaes with each other.

The Yellow Ducks are prepared for the next summer fun activity here at Kid Country. The children will be able to



experience Amber's custom cookies, more water days, and ball pit fun! The Yellow Ducks teachers

will continue to encourage the individual development of each child while incorporating new experiences.

Ms. Leslie, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Sarah



# GREEN FROGS

June delivered the warm weather as the Green Frogs started their study of the ocean and its wonderful creatures. We continually practice our fine motor skills as we recreate the ocean in our classroom. The opening and closing of scissors as we cut out waves, seahorses, and starfish helps to strengthen the muscles in our fingers that will be necessary to write.

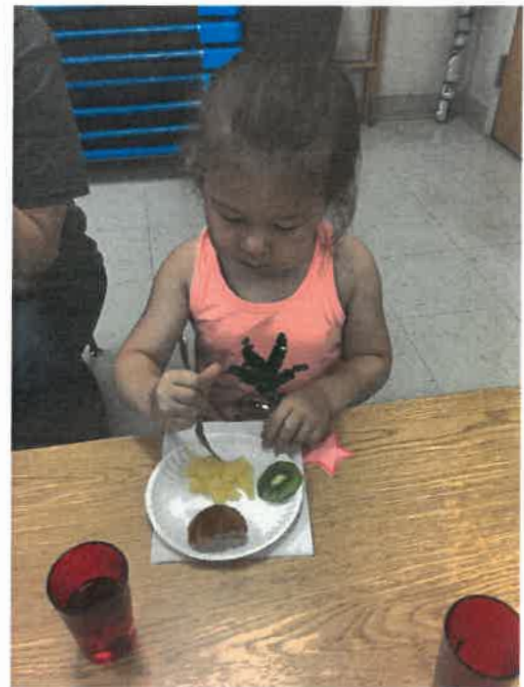
The children's creativity shined through when we masterfully constructed a coral reef. The Green Frogs engaged the muscles in their whole hand as they gripped paint filled sponges and tapped them inside the lines to build the coral reef. To further challenge the muscle development in the Green Frogs' hands the children experienced glitter pens and puffy paint to create a colorful face. With our seahorses the children practiced a three-point finger grip as they used a paint brush to add color and vibrance to our ocean room.

The Green Frogs exercised their traveling skills as the class explored the movement of starfish and seahorses. We learned how starfish have hundreds of tiny tube feet to crawl across the ocean floor. To demonstrate this action the Green Frogs laid on their tummies using their hands and feet to propel themselves across the classroom floor. We continued our exploration of the movement under the ocean as we swam like seahorses. Seahorses use their dorsal fins (back fins) to

propel themselves slowly forward. They move up and down by filling an air pocket inside their bodies to create buoyance. The Frogs moved around the room bending their knees to demonstrate up and down motion of a seahorse.

Overall, June was spectacular diving deep into the ocean to explore a lot of marine life. The Frogs began fine tuning the small muscles in their hands as they continue to prepare for their academic years. The Frogs are collecting their passports and embarking on their travels around the world.

Ms. Fran, Ms. Stephani, and Ms. Abbey



# ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls kicked off the summer with extremely exciting activities all about shapes and numbers! We started off our summer by painting our very own bright and colorful steppingstones in various whimsical shapes! Then had the pleasure of meeting various farm animals from HHH Ranch here in Manhattan! We were able to hold and cuddle the baby chicks which was by



far the highlight of the month, while the goats had us cracking up running and jumping around while sniffing out all the food!

We worked hard on numbers past 12

this month, as well with games such as hide-and seek, number hunt, and counting out items on scales. Having the children immersed in numbers throughout the room and with hands on games helped them to not only memorize and learn, but to do so while interacting and having a blast with their friends!

Even though our first field trip was cancelled due to the rainy weather, we were able to bring the fun inside by creating a giant indoor obstacle course! The Owls experienced this challenging course with their friends from the Green Frogs and Blue Dolphins! They were challenged to walk across the balance beam, hop on carpet mats, army crawl under tables, and much more! The Orange Owls were able to display their gross motor skills by demonstrating their travel skills and balancing skills. They had so much fun interacting and moving with their friends! To end the exciting day, the Orange Owls had a delicious and relaxing picnic with their friends right inside our classroom! The Orange Owl team is excited for the summer to continue with hopefully more sun and of course more fun! Ms. Bailey and Ms. Molly