



CROSSINGS

Newsletter

Volume 21 | Issue 10 | October 2022

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We are celebrating Grandparents this month! We have always loved this event and honoring the special bond that grandparents hold with their grandchildren. Having become a grandparent myself (two grandbabies!) has only exemplified the importance of this event!

There is so much research out there about how a strong bond between grandchildren and their grandparents' benefits both! Children understand better a sense of who they are and where they come from, they have better self-esteem, emotional and social skills and even better grades in school!

Grandparents benefit by building stronger immune systems, lowering the risk of depression and reducing stress! Spending time with your grandchildren is a win-win!

At Kid Country, we benefit by strengthening our home-to-school connection. But let's be honest, the real reason we host this event year after year is so we can see the SMILES on the children's faces when their grandparent walks through the door! Priceless! We hope your child's grandparents enjoy the day as much as we do!

We are also marking the change of seasons this month with a special Kid Country Fall Fest for the children! Our playground will be transformed with a pumpkin patch, fall picture spot, games and special activities! It's a great month to be enrolled at Kid Country!

Donna



Happy BIRTHDAY!

To all those celebrating September Birthdays!

Maggie R. - 5th
Vera S. - 10th
Brooklyn B. - 14th
Luisa S. - 14th
Molly W. - 15th
Eliana J. - 16th
Iris N. - 19th
Maryn H. - 20th
Ashton G. - 22nd
Michael L. - 22nd
Sabrina R. - 26th
Riley L. - 28th
Camden S. - 29th
Carson W. - 30th





YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks classroom used the month of September to focus on furthering their social and emotional development by learning about a variety of topics such as shapes, the circus, and different emotions. Social/emotional development is the domain of child development that focuses on building relationships with others and acquiring an understanding of emotions and how to express and manage them.

The Duck teachers put together a variety of fun and colorful activities during their two week *My Feelings* unit meant to familiarize the Ducks with basic emotions such as happy, sad, angry, and surprised. The Ducks explored colored sensory bottles, discovered the different facial expressions they could make using mirrors, and engaged in several painting projects geared toward expressing emotion using color. In addition to these activities, the teachers also took the Ducks outside on walks where they were able to practice their social skills not only with each other, but also with their friends, the Purple Parrots.



The Ducks also practiced their social skills inside the classroom while learning about the concept of shapes. They worked together to create a collage of shapes using paper cutouts and contact paper and participated in a “shape search” where they had to find different shape cutouts that the teachers had hidden around the classroom. The Ducks also practiced their social skills by sharing and taking turns playing with shape sorter toys used to aid them in learning about shapes.

The Ducks finished out the month by learning about the circus in preparation for the circus-themed *Family Fun Night*. They made handprint and footprint animals for the bulletin board in the hallway and practiced their gross motor skills by playing circus games like “bozo buckets.” Overall, the month of September was filled with fun and lots of social interaction and growth. We can’t wait to see what the month of October brings to the Yellow Ducks classroom!

**Miss Amy, Miss Gina
& Miss Hailee**

PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots spent the month learning about different types of transportation vehicles such as cars, airplanes, firetrucks, and trains. The Purple Parrots love using our transportation cars and driving them all around the room!

The Purple Parrots are making connections by identifying the different types of transportation vehicles to the ones they see while driving. Discussions included the different places you could see these vehicles (cars-road, airplanes-sky, firetrucks-fire station, and trains-railroad). While we were outside the Purple Parrots were looking for cars that drove by on the road and airplanes that flew around in the sky. The Purple Parrots would get so excited once we found one!

Growing our gross motor skills, we mimicked being airplanes by sticking our arms out and flying around the little playground like an airplane and drove like they were cars, firetrucks, and trains mimicking the sounds they make such as “beep, beep” and “chugga chugga choo choo.” Continue the connection at home and point out these vehicles when on the road!



Purple Parrots continued...

Learning about different transportation helps the Purple Parrots expand on their views of the world around them. As toddlers grow they start to become more curious about the world around and start to explore more. By teaching the Purple Parrots about different types of transportation vehicles it will help them categorize and make meaning about them. Learning about cars, airplanes, firetrucks, and trains help the Purple Parrots make the connections and realize there are different ways each vehicle works and the purpose of each one.

We are excited for the season to begin to change and the weather to start to cool off. We will take that excitement and put it towards learning about all things fall next month!

As the weather becomes cooler please remember to have a sweater as we will still be going outside as much as possible.

**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily S,
Ms. Tobi, Ms. Grace,
Ms. Meg, & Ms. Jill**



RED ROBINS

The month of September brought lots of new experiences for the Red Robins. The children began this month getting to know their teachers, new friends, and the classroom!

To start off the new year, the Red Robins teachers started incorporating self-help skills into the children's daily routines. This includes taking off/putting on shoes, sitting at the table, cleaning up after meals and using utensils. As children practice self-help skills, they begin to gain confidence in their ability to try new things, build self-esteem and promote independence.

In addition to learning self-help skills, the Red Robins also worked on improving their language development and social-emotional skills through our *All About Me* unit. The unit began with teaching the Robins about their emotions. The teachers assisted the children in identifying and labeling emotions and explained appropriate responses they may express to strong feelings.



As children learn to understand and regulate their emotions, they are better able to resolve conflicts in a positive way. As we continued our *All About Me* study, the teachers focused on expanding vocabulary. The Red Robins teachers introduced simple descriptive adjectives as we discussed different characteristics that make everyone unique. Introducing descriptive language encourages the use of clear communication and understanding.

Overall, the Red Robins enjoyed learning more about themselves and their new environment. The teachers are so proud of all the improvement the children have shown. As we move into fall, the Robins will continue learning through new experiences. We are looking forward to what the new season will bring!



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



GREEN FROGS

September was an essential month for growth in the Green Frog Room. The new Green Frogs have spent the month adjusting to the new routines of the classroom, while developing new social and emotional skills. We are learning how to take turns in our play areas and how to communicate our strong feelings with one another. During circle times, the Green Frogs practice speaking clearly when sharing ideas and recalling their favorite things and memories from home!

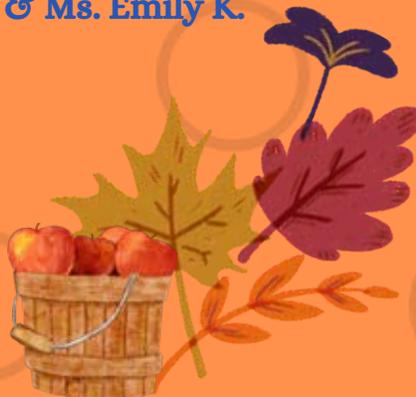
To introduce our new study, our circle times have been focused on showing the Green Frogs how to find shapes all around us! This helps the Green Frogs continue to develop the cognitive skills needed to think about objects symbolically.



We looked for circles, semi-circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, and diamonds in toys inside our very own classroom! During playtime, we can hear excitement as the Green Frogs recognize and classify these shapes on their own! To work on fine-motor skills we practiced drawing these shapes on white boards with markers. This is a perfect way to introduce finger gripping a pencil once we transition into letter writing!

Family Fun Night was also a great opportunity for our Green Frogs and all our other friends to show off their classrooms to parents! The children had so much fun playing our circus themed games and winning all sorts of silly prizes and treats. We would like to thank all families that took the time to participate in this fun event at Kid Country!

**Ms. Fran, Ms. Valeria,
& Ms. Emily K.**



ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls have had an exciting start to the 2022-2023 school year! There are new friendships forming and old ones growing even stronger. We encourage each Orange Owl to work on their social and emotional development through the foundation of these bonds. They are able to increase their sense of belonging, decrease any stress they may encounter, and develop security with others. The Owls are working on this through group games, free play in the classroom, and small group activities.

We are starting of the year by learning all about apples! The class is conducting experiments, participating in polls, and expanding their creative imaginations through various art projects. They are also becoming experts in how apples grow, their different parts, and life cycle. We are very excited to see what this school year will hold for our Orange Owls!

**Ms. Victoria, Ms. Bailey &
Ms. Mary**





BLUE DOLPHINS

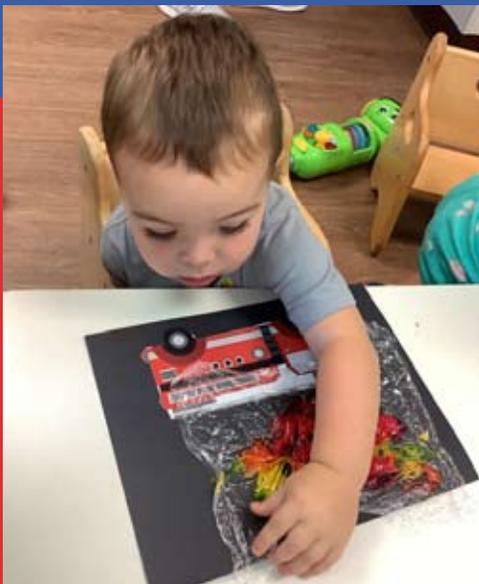
The month of September brought fun for all at Kid Country Childcare. The Blue Dolphins may be here a short time, but they constructed awesome monkey creations to decorate for the Circus themed Family Fun Night. This event fosters the connections between families and staff. The children can visit each classroom to play games see the teachers and earn a few prizes. We had a great turn out and are very happy with all the smiles provided that night.

As the month turned colder the conversations in the Blue Dolphins classroom were guided with more autumn centered topics. We talked in large and small groups about everyone's favorite fall activities. This exercise is a great way for not only teachers to learn about the children but also helps the children learn about one another. Connections were established through similar favorites and even some friendships began.

The Blue Dolphin teachers believe in providing every child with the appropriate platform to express themselves and make meaningful connections while at Kid Country.

Looking ahead, the Blue Dolphins will be discussing Halloween and Fire safety throughout the month of October. We are excited to hear how your family prepares for emergencies and how we learn to prepare at school.

**Ms. Rhonda, Ms. Wendy, &
Ms. Donna K**



BLUE GILLS



The Blue Gills are off to a great start this year. Our returning Gills have taken our new Gills under their wing and are teaching them the ropes. In just the few short weeks that we have been together we are learning so much about each other and enjoying the new friendships that we are making!

Our study of Colors and Shapes had us being mini magicians. For colors, we had a great time mixing primary colors to make them change into the secondary colors meeting one of our classroom objectives of "Uses scientific inquiry skills".

While using different manipulatives to make shapes during Large Group time, we used our knowledge of number concepts and operations as we counted and quantified the number of manipulatives it took to produce the shapes.

We are lucky to have a bunch of curious learners this year!

Ms. Rhonda & Ms. Wendy



October Happenings

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE

10 - 14th - Book Fair & Grandparent's Days

17 - 20th - Helping Hands Screenings

26th - Manhattan Fire Dept Visit

27th - Fall Fest

31st - Halloween - KC closes @ 5pm

