



MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 2nd -- Ryan M.
- 3rd -- Levi M.
- 3rd -- Miss Jess
- 4th -- Lizzie P.
- 4th -- Casey P.
- 4th -- Miss Wendy
- 5th -- Miss Kelly
- 7th -- Liam S.
- 10th -- Miss Emily
- 16th -- Miles N.
- 17th -- Isabella S.
- 19th -- Miss Jenna
- 24th -- Sophia W.
- 30th -- Miss Courtney
- 31st -- Olivia G.



Welcome Back!

We could not be more excited to see all of you back in our building! It's been a long year, and it's refreshing to allow you access to your child's teachers on a daily basis. Communication between home and school is so important and being able to talk face to face works so much better than emails!

I hope you are finding our new check in/out system with the Procure Engage app easy to use! Scanning a QR code on the iPad is definitely streamlining the process and should make drop off and pick ups go smooth and quick. Thank you for everyone's cooperation as we've ironed out a few bugs with getting everyone signed up.

May marks the end of the 2020-21 school year and we are happy to announce that we will host both parent/teacher conferences and a Spring Show/Graduation this month!

Conferences will be held during the week of May 10 with 15-minute time slots per family. You will be able to sign up for a time that is convenient for you. If you are not comfortable meeting in person, please let us know and we will set up a phone conference for you.

Our main event – Spring Show & Graduation -- will include performances by our Green Frogs, Orange Owls and Blue Gills. The children will be singing

to entertain everyone, and we will be handing out diplomas to our graduates that will be heading to kindergarten in the fall. We will host this event in our Kid Country "backyard" with families bringing lawn chairs and spreading out in our grassy area. You don't want to miss this big event, so be sure to save the early evening of Wednesday, May 26 (Thursday, May 27 as a rain date). Final details will be communicated a little closer to the event.

Last but not least in the month of May, we celebrate our hardworking teachers! Teacher Appreciation Week is set for the week of May 17. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help with our beach themed event and fill-up the teachers' buckets!

We are going to have a very busy month and we couldn't be happier that you are able to join us inside! Have a fabulous May and Happy Mother's Day to all of our fabulous Kid Country moms!

Donna

**Newsletters now
available online!
Kidcountrymanhattan.com**

Blue Gills

The Blue Gills had a blast down on the farm this past month. As farmers, our first mission was to build a sturdy barn for all the tractors and animals to be housed. The Gills needed to be meticulous with details as they constructed their plan as a group. The discussion included the size of the barn, how it would need to be partitioned, and all materials necessary. We listened to everyone's visions and created a blueprint. We were flexible and inventive with our plan.

Long-term, this style of thinking would assist in the development of problem-solving skills, reasoning, and divergent thinking. As the Gills built the barn, we resolved obstacles with every step of our project. For example, the children had to use mathematical concepts involving weights and balances, and symmetry solutions. This activity incorporated many skills including the positive social interactions and socialization.

Once the barn was complete, we were able to house any future animals. Throughout the rest of the month the Gills continued to learn about the animals and their purposes on the farm. The children's shocked faces were priceless when they discovered pigs can get sunburn and goats can be milked just like a cow.

We are super excited to gain the privilege of the parents returning to being able to access the classrooms. While we will still do group drop off and pick up for the Blue Gills to prevent everyone congregating in one place, I will be glad to speak with you or welcome you into the classroom after we dismiss the class.

Ms. Rhonda

PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots jumped into spring with a focus on bugs. The toddlers learned about bumble bees, ladybugs, and butterflies in the month of April. The toddlers experienced these different types of bugs through various types of activities such as exploring the visual arts, sensory play, as well as gross and fine motor activities.

The Purple Parrots physical development was exercised when the toddlers stomped on bugs, hunted for bugs on the little playground, painted symmetrical butterflies, and even placing dots (while counting) on a felt piece ladybug. The children accomplished the bug hunt/stomp by demonstrating their balancing skills to jump, run, and balance their bodies. Balance is important in physical development as it affects the development of the toddler's motor and mobility skills.



The Purple Parrots' emotional skills were also used when hunting for ladybugs in a sensory bin, bug swatting, and creating bug prints (painting with bugs). These activities prompted the toddlers to participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations. The toddlers took turns, followed directions, and actively participated in these activities. Overall, the month of April brought a lot of exciting bug activities to the Purple Parrots' classroom. The toddlers' physical and emotional development was the focus throughout these activities this month. We cannot wait to see what our new lesson of flowers will bloom to us in the month of May, just in time for Mother's Day!

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Christal and Ms. Emily

GREEN FROGS

During the month of April, the Frogs demonstrated their fine-motor strength and coordination as we jumped into our study of the rainforest. Hand and finger strength will help children to perform a variety of tasks, such as eating, dressing, toothbrushing, and writing. To help increase their fine motor skills, the Frogs cut construction paper into large leaves. As we discussed the rainforest, we cut along a printed line, turning the paper as needed, creating the canopy of our rainforest. To further strengthen our fingers and hands we created name caterpillars. After identifying the letters in their names, the Frogs practiced writing each letter on a circle. We glued our names together to form the body of our caterpillars. We practiced our 3-point

grip with markers and added a smiling face to our wiggly friends.

We combined math skills with social development to create a fifteen-foot paper anaconda to add to our rainforest. Each Frog helped to cut and staple paper rings together to form the body of our anaconda. During the construction, the Frogs used their social skills as we moved around the table and waited for their turn to add their links. We needed to test the length of the snake several times before reaching our fifteen-foot goal. The anaconda is hanging proudly in the middle of our room. We are extremely excited to have our parents back in the building to see the wonderful rainforest we have created!

Ms. Fran, Ms. Wendy, and Ms. Stephani

RED ROBINS

The month of April kicked off the beginning stages of preparing our little Robins to fly the nest to the Green Frogs classroom. Part of preparing them is discussing emotions and behaviors. It is age appropriate for children to display a mix of independence, playfulness, and fear. During this stage of development, children take an interest in trying new things and exploring new places. Examples of what children display are: playing with other children, taking turns finding ways to solve arguments, show concern for others and show a variety of emotions in general.

To incorporate these milestones, the Robin's participated in several different activities. This month, the Robins were thrilled to learn "Duck, Duck, Goose" and "Ring Around the Rosie." These two games assist children in understanding how to listen to directions, take turns, and familiarizes the development of patience. These are important objectives and characteristics to have when preparing children for their future in school.

By this time of year and at this age, children also tend to start asking many "why" questions. Asking "why" is a great sign that they are showing curiosity and wanting to understand what is happening around them. Understanding what they are asking can help increase security and confidence. The Red Robins teachers are furthermore focusing on the development of each child's character and their abilities to gain independence, the acceptance of curiosity, and the beginning stages of regulating emotions. The teachers are excited for the next stages of their curious students and to break into their preschool readiness.

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

YELLOW DUCKS

The Yellow Ducks have been working hard to support their physical development, especially their traveling and balancing skills. The Yellow Ducks have begun to interact with the environment around them as their bodies grow stronger and more mature. One way they learn to use their bodies is to engage their gross motor skills by sitting independently, crawling, and walking. The teachers encourage the Yellow Ducks to use these



skills by assisting according to ability, by incorporating different opportunities to move. Crawling through tunnels and guiding them to walk along the classroom furniture is a couple of the many ways the teachers assist in each child's gross motor

development. The teachers also supported the non-walking babies to take steps by holding their hands and walking with them throughout the classroom. For the younger

Yellow Ducks, the teachers focused on the development of their core muscle strength striving for the milestone of sitting up by themselves.

Also, this month, the Yellow Ducks worked on establishing and sustaining positive relationships with the teachers in the classroom. Through positive relationships, the Yellow Ducks discover who they are and learn to understand others. This will help them as they grow to be responsive and caring individuals. One activity the teachers did to build a positive relationship with the Yellow Ducks was a digging sensory play to explore sand and water. The teachers substituted the water with blue food-dyed spaghetti noodles. For the older Yellow Ducks, the teachers mixed goldfish crackers in the noodles and rubber sea animal toys were mixed in. Then the teachers guided the Yellow Ducks to explore and find the fish. This fun activity was a great way for the teachers and Yellow Ducks to build a positive relationship with each other.

Ms. Leslie, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Stephani



ORANGE OWLS

The Orange Owls zoomed back home to Earth in our rocket ships as we wrapped up our space study and began to explore how we move around our own planet! We discussed various types of transportation vehicles that drive on land, zoom in water and fly in the air. The Owls were able to make connections between home and school as we discussed different aspects of their environment such as stop signs, stoplights, road signs and maps. This study encouraged development of the children's schemas and recognition of everyday

experiences in their lives such as how they arrive to school each day.

The Owls focused on building their physical development and enhancing their mathematics skills throughout the study of



transportation. The Orange Owls expanded upon their fine-motor strength and coordination skills within our activities this month. Fine-motor skills encourage the use of both hands as well as hand-eye coordination along with establishing children's ability to complete self-help skills such as zipping coats and using utensils at mealtimes. One of our activities this month as we introduced stoplights was for the children to create their own while discussing the importance of stoplights and what each color represents. The Owls tore up green, yellow and red paper to glue inside of their stoplight circles. The children also had the opportunity to design their very own license plate. The Owls were directed to cut out a rectangle shape and glued a variety of art materials onto their license plates. Cutting materials with scissors enhances the grasp

and control aspect of fine motor skills, incorporates the understanding of spatial relationships, and promotes a more precise scissor grip.

We enjoyed strengthening our number recognition throughout our study this month including completing number puzzles, counting the tallies of the transportation classroom polls and various transportation count and clip activities. The Owls also counted the number of letters in their name as they completed a variety of activities. The students built upon their counting abilities

as they counted number puzzles where they identified the sequence of the numbers one through ten. The ability to strengthen number recognition and counting skills is particularly important as it sets the foundation for understanding more complex math concepts later on.

Overall, the Orange Owls are loving their studies and the transportation study was no

different! The teachers are slightly switching gears as we move closer to graduation. Graduation is an incredibly special time in the Orange Owls classroom because it is the final celebration of their accomplishments prior to kindergarten. This year has flown by and we are beyond excited for our graduation ceremony.

Ms. Bailey, Ms. Molly, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Abbey



Blue Dolphins

The Blue Dolphins have successfully mastered the first full month of in-person learning. They were excited about seeing their school, teachers, classmates, friends, and simply adjusting back into a typical routine once again.

After school, the school-agers arrive back here at Kid Country for relaxation and fun. The Dolphins were enthused about the arrival of spring and used their talents to make a beautiful and colorful display of spring flowers. They planted a real flower and designed a planter during "The Week of the Young Child" activities. Even though the children attend school during the day, Kid Country ensured the inclusion of our "big children" in the Week of the Young Child fun.

The Dolphins also made an ACROSTIC poem using the first letter of their names to describe themselves. The participation and engagement were present, and the children displayed enjoyment as they created and shared their poems.

Looking forward, the Blue Dolphins are ready for more consistent warm weather for the ultimate outside time. After being in school all day with their masks it is a great break to exercise their bodies and

experience fresh air. Please note as our weather is still unpredictable, we ask your child to still bring something warm to wear outside.
Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Donna