



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

1st -- Natalie S.
5th -- Lukas S.
8th -- Maksim H.
9th -- Emma H.
10th -- Miss Jill
17th -- Zachary S.
19th -- Miss Abbey
25th -- Daphne B.
25th -- Wyatt D.
27th -- Joey C.
28th -- Joshua R.
29th -- Maebry M.
30th -- Cooper W.

Garden Time!

We are looking forward to summer here at Kid Country! We are currently finalizing some field trips and scheduling some special activities to ensure the children have a fun and exciting summer!

Did you know that the week of June 6 is National Garden Week? Did you also know that Kid Country has an AWESOME Children's Garden? We invested in expanding our garden this year, and your children now have an amazing place to garden and re-connect with nature. Our garden now includes some natural "playscapes," such as a tree branch as a balance beam, tree stumps that make a table and chairs, and "tree slices" for the children to move around and use in whatever ways their little minds come up with! There is also an alphabet steppingstone path and a numbered hopscotch. Oh, and don't forget about the vegetables and flowers growing in the garden as well! Your children play a major role in planting, watering, weeding and harvesting the garden all season. When the children start picking the vegetables, we also serve them as part of our snacks. If we are lucky enough to have a bumper crop, we put out the extras for the families to enjoy as well.

There are so many skills the children learn by helping in our garden. According to BetterHealth, children learn

responsibility from caring for the plants, understanding as they learn about cause and effect (for example, plants die without water, weeds compete with plants), self-confidence – from achieving their goals and enjoying the food they have grown, love of nature – a chance to learn about the outdoor environment in a safe and pleasant place, reasoning and discovery – learning about the science of plants, animals, weather, the environment, nutrition and simple construction, physical activity – doing something fun and productive, cooperation – including shared play activity and teamwork, creativity – finding new and exciting ways to grow food, nutrition – learning about where fresh food comes from. As you can see, our garden is an important part of our summer curriculum! If you haven't had the chance to check out our garden yet, please do! Look for pictures of our garden on our Facebook page during National Garden Week!

We are looking forward to a fun, relaxing summer here at Kid Country. After all the challenges of the school year, we firmly believe the children deserve a chance to be kids again and just have some fun! Stay tuned to see all the excitement we have in store this summer!

Danna



Blue Gills

It is hard to believe that this preschool year has come to an end. It really seems like yesterday when they arrived on their very first day of school. This year with both groups together again, it has been a huge success. The children really worked together as a group and established solid friendships. Our older Gills were awesome role models for the younger Gills. They did a great job showing them the ropes of preschool and helping them out whenever there was a need. Their love of learning new things was contagious, and our younger ones caught that bug. Our younger Gills benefited as well as they learned from their older classmates and they will be great role models for the next group of Gills. Great teamwork Blue Gills!

Graduation was different this year, but always a great show. With the help of the Green Frogs, our Gills and Orange Owls had a good time singing their songs for their families and friends. They are a super talented group and will no doubt do incredible things in the future. Good luck to all our new Kindergarteners. We will miss you dearly. Make sure you come back to visit us every once and a while or update us on our Facebook page.

For our younger Gills that are now our older Gills, we look forward to your return in the fall and seeing how much you have all grown over the summer. We have a lot of fun and learning left to do and we cannot wait to share all the fun with you.

Have a wonderful summer!
Ms.
Rhonda



PURPLE PARROTS

The month of May brought not only the growth of flowers in the Purple Parrots classroom but the growth of toddlers as well! The toddlers grew together this month as they learned about flowers. The toddlers used their gross motor skills, fine motor skills, color recognition, and hand-eye coordination to enhance their learning. May was the perfect month to learn about flowers because we celebrate Mother's Day!

The Purple Parrots used their gross motor skills to hop, crawl, and run around the side yard to find dandelions. The Purple Parrots brought the nature items inside the classroom to be creative and paint a picture with the dandelions. The toddlers were excited to pick their own "flowers" to bring into the classroom. As the toddlers painted the teachers identified what plants and flowers need to grow. We also encouraged their gross motor skills in the classroom to jump across the flowers printed on the floor. Gross motor skills are a crucial part of the toddler's motor learning.

The Purple Parrots' fine motor skills were a big focus in the activities planned this month as well. Fine motor skills are the ability to make movements using the small muscles in our hands and wrists. The toddlers engaged their fine motor skills this month to color, "plant" flowers using popsicle sticks and an egg carton, create a sensory bottle, and painting with nature. The use of fine motor skills is important as it helps with everyday self-help skills such as writing, eating, dressing and brushing their teeth. The Purple Parrots go from a palmar grasp, which is when they grip the writing tool with the palm of their hand and wrap their fingers around, to a pincer grasp, which is when they start to hold a writing utensil with their fingertips and thumb. While enhancing these fine motor skills during these activities the Purple Parrots also worked on color recognition. Most of our toddlers are beginning to show an increased interest in recognizing the different colors!

The month of June is right around the corner, which means a new lesson in the Purple Parrots classroom. We will switch our gears to summer fun by decking out our room with summer ice cream inspired decor! Be sure to be on the lookout for our summer cubby checklist, as we will be swapping out the clothes in your child's bin. Thank you to all our parents for supporting us during teacher appreciation week, we appreciate each one of our families!

Miss Kathy, Miss Emily, and Miss Christal



RED ROBINS

The month of May brought warm weather and lots of outside time for the Red Robins! We focused our study on bugs and the garden as we explored the Kid Country property. The expansion of our Kid Country garden allowed for the development of many gross motor skills including balance and jumping. One of our favorite activities in the garden is using the large logs as balance beams. The Red Robins enjoy taking turns walking, with teacher assistance, across the large logs with their arms spread wide.

Balancing on a beam not only improves the Red Robins ability to balance, but also strengthens their leg and core muscles.

Jumping and hopping across the small tree stumps is another favorite outdoor activity for our Robins that strengthens these same muscles while building confidence and independence as well.

Inside of the classroom, art projects and circle time activities kept the Robins as busy as bees! As we learned about various insects and their characteristics, we created works of art that utilized our fine motor muscles. Cutting, gluing, drawing, and pulling apart pieces of paper and stickers all serve to strengthen the Robins pincer grips and prepare them for the pre-writing skills that we will begin to practice as we prepare for preschool. During circle time, important social skills are developed and practiced. During story times, the Robins learn to listen quietly and recall details. Circle time also teaches the Robins patience as they need to wait their turn to share answers to questions and listen to friends and their contributions to the conversation.

We are looking forward to our first month of summer!
Miss Krista, Miss Jessica, Miss Jasmine, and Miss Jenna



YELLOW DUCKS

The month of May brought sensory play to the Yellow Ducks. Sensory play is an activity that stimulates a baby's senses. Babies use their senses to explore and to try to make sense of the world around them. They do this by touching, tasting, smelling, seeing, moving, and hearing. Sensory play allows for the babies to create stronger connections to process and respond to different sensory information. Sensory play helps support the babies' language development, cognitive growth, and fine and gross motor skills as well as problem solving skills and social interactions. Sensory play is also a great way to calm anxious or frustrated babies when they are transitioning from one surrounding to another.

One way that the Ducks incorporated sensory play in the classroom was through our Small World Edible Zoo. The teachers set up a zoo themed edible sensory bin. They used food representations like puffs, pudding, and graham cracker crumbs as the surface layout. Then the teachers placed toy animals in the bin and encouraged the Ducks to explore the small world zoo! This activity not only

helped develop the Ducks' senses it also assisted in improving the Ducks' fine motor skills, as well as enhanced their social skills through sharing and playing. The Yellow Ducks teachers strive to continually encourage exploration for the entire class on a group and individual level. The Yellow Ducks classroom is excited to see what summer will bring!

Miss Leslie, Miss Karen, Miss Stephani



GREEN FROGS Blue Dolphins

This month the Green Frogs demonstrated their fine-motor strength and coordination as we jumped into our study of the rainforest. Fine motor skills include hand and finger strength that 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 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 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 to take a turn to add their links. We needed to test the length of the snake several times before reaching our fifteen-foot goal. The anaconda was 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 created. The Green Frogs will be leaving the rainforest to swim and explore the ocean!

Ms. Fran, Ms. Wendy, and Ms. Abbey



ORANGE OWLS

The Owls explored various art medias through projects and hands on play. Everything from simple sketches, bubble art, marble painting, to abstract string art! They then used these newfound art skills and knowledge to become writers and illustrators as we explored books. We reiterated the different parts of books, what we use books for, and why they are important for learning. The Owls were encouraged to make their very own books including titles, covers, and various pages of their favorite things! The Owls then celebrated themselves and their classmates as we prepared for Graduation and

our Spring Show! We talked about our times here at Kid Country as well as what we all look forward to in Kindergarten.

The Orange Owls and Blue Gills worked extremely hard on their performance and were over the moon surrounded by their family and friends during this momentous occasion. We cannot thank each of you enough for sharing your precious children with us and letting us watch them grow into the brave and bold Kindergartners they are now!
Ms. Bailey, Ms. Molly, and Ms. Kelly



As the Blue Dolphins approach their final month of the school year, we reflected on the fun we had despite challenges. The Blue Dolphins and their families joined together with Kid Country to show support and team work to provide the best school year under these unforeseen circumstances. We would also like to recognize the children for doing a marvelous job throughout this crazy year. The Blue Dolphins had fun creating their "All About My Mom" for Mother's Day. In hopes all moms had a wonderful and relaxing day and enjoyed reading them with your child.

We also engaged in hands-on activities. First, we created a 1-2-dimensional shape using only small marshmallows and toothpicks. Creations consisted of a strawberry, kite, treehouse ladder, chair, gorilla, bee, and various houses. The Dolphins had fun eating marshmallows and playing games, such as seeing how many marshmallows they could stack in 30 seconds without any falling and guessing where the marshmallow was under which cup. As a group we like to read chapter books and interacting with each other talking about how our day went and playing games with one another, especially on those cold and rainy days. In fact, we learned a new card game called "Garbage" taught by two children here in our room. It was a lot a fun and nice to add new games to our classroom. We have been getting outside so, as always, have your child dress for outdoor play. The Blue Dolphins are in full anticipation for some fun-filled activities over the summer months. So, with that said let us have a spectacular one.

Ms. Donna and Ms. Rhonda