

CROSSINGS

KID COUNTRY CHILDCARE'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 11/4-11/5 - Helping Hands Screening
- Week of 11/8 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/8-11/19 - Thanksgiving Raffle Basket
- 11/23 - Thanksgiving Feast
- 11/25-11/26 - CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/4 (Saturday) - Kid Country Holiday Show - 3:00 PM



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I have been practicing living with gratitude daily since March, and it has been such a positive experience! Waking up every morning and immediately focusing on what you are grateful for helps to get the day going in a positive direction! November is traditionally the month that we all take time to be grateful, so I want to challenge each of you to start every day with gratitude! Before you get out of bed in the morning, write down or think about three things that you are grateful for and see how making that habit changes your overall tone of the day. You can even get the children involved by asking them to share one thing every morning. If your child is too young to do this, tell your child what you are grateful for every morning to start the routine. Pretty soon you'll see that you are living a more positive life and appreciating all the little things more!

One thing I'm grateful for this year is the Child Care Success Academy. I joined this coaching group during the height of the pandemic to help me navigate our industry and grow our business. Last month, I was chosen as one of three finalists in the 2021 Childcare Rockstar competition. The finalists were invited to share our stories live at the annual summit. My story talked about how I've grown as a person and a leader since joining the Academy, and how this has carried over to the success of Kid Country as a business as well. While I didn't win the overall competition (I came in second), the experience was amazing, and I am so grateful to have the support of the Academy as I continue my journey to grow as a business owner and individual!

I also want to make sure you know that our entire team is so grateful for each of you! We routinely comment about how we have such an amazing group of parents. We are so grateful for the support and appreciation you have shown us this year and we look forward to continuing to work together in the years to come!

- Miss Donna



"WISHING YOU A DAY FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND A YEAR FILLED WITH JOY." - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 11/2 - Everett M.
- 11/3 - Zephyr F.
- 11/4 - Lucy D.
- 11/4 - Austin H.
- 11/7 - Louis B.
- 11/9 - Henry P.
- 11/13 - Miss Melissa
- 11/15 - Miss Alex
- 11/15 - Nora O.
- 11/16 - Cameron W.
- 11/21 - Colton B.
- 11/29 - Miss Donna



YELLOW DUCKS

Ms. Karen, Ms. Alex, and Ms. Amy

The month of October was a fa-boo-lous month in the Yellow Duck classroom filled with spooky crafts and activities that enhanced the Ducks' fine motor skills. Fine motor skills can be thought of as the small movements of muscles that involve using the hands and fingers together to perform the movement. Fine motor skills are movements such as pinching or grasping. Practicing fine motor skills will help children have a solid foundation for their future everyday tasks.

One fine motor craft was creating Jack-O-Lantern sun catchers, in which the children were involved from start to finish. Ms. Alex guided the Ducks to tear orange and green tissue paper to prepare for the sticking phase. The Ducks were provided with a pumpkin sticky paper cutout and black triangles to create a face. Each child created their own gourd-geous jack-o-lantern and placed the colors and pieces where they saw fit.

This activity engaged many muscle groups in their fine motor skills as well as introduced new textures. Another fine motor activity that also introduced new textures was interacting with a real pumpkin! The Ducks had a blast exploring and playing with the gooey ooey insides of the pumpkin. Overall, the Yellow Ducks had a spooktacular month full of new memories and experiences. We are excited to see what the holiday seasons will bring with many more firsts and smiles!

PURPLE PARROTS

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Emily, Ms. Molly, and Ms. Scarlett

What a spooky month for the Purple Parrots! This month was filled with a bunch of spooky art, sensory activities, and outside time! These activities help the toddlers grow and develop in many ways! The Purple Parrots also loved having their grandparents visit their classroom and celebrating Halloween with their classmates!

The toddlers were busy this month decorating the classroom in a variety of art activities! The toddlers created ghost footprints, handprint pumpkins, paper bag pumpkins, and paper plate pumpkins to name just a few. The visual arts help enhance our toddler's fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are the coordination of small muscles in movement with their eyes, connecting with their hands and fingers. Art projects also help toddlers with color recognition and sensory skills. Check out your child's masterpiece in the classroom!

The toddlers had fun celebrating with two big events this month, Grandparent's tea and our Halloween party! It was so nice having the grandparents back in the building again! Seeing the toddlers connect with their grandparents helps with their overall development! The grandparents could see the artwork displayed in the classroom, created a craft with their grandchild and could see where their grandchild develop their gross motor skills on the little playground and in the garden! We hope everyone had an amazing time!

Next month the Purple Parrots will be learning all about turkeys and Thanksgiving! Reminder to please bring in any clothes needed for your child's cubby. We will still be going outside as much as we can before it gets too cold, please send your child in appropriate clothes with a sweater, thank you!

RED ROBINS

Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Jenna

The Red Robins have had an exciting month as we explored fall activities! The children have enjoyed spending as much time outside as the weather allows. Throughout October, the Robins have focused on fine motor skills. One aspect that enhances children's fine motor development is sensory play. Sensory play encourages the Robins to use their fingers and hands throughout the play which builds upon their small muscles and promotes hand-eye coordination. The Robins enhanced these muscles as they squished, pulled, stirred, combined, and explored various sensory materials. An activity the Robins were fond of this month was the pumpkin-scented Play-Doh experience. The Robins were enthusiastic about creating with Play-Doh and loved the added element of smell! Play-Doh is a great sensory material to explore at home as well!

The Robins enjoyed many exciting events this month. The children adored seeing their grandparents during our Grandparents' Celebrations as they created crafts together and explored their favorite aspects of the classroom during play. The children also loved Kid Country's Fall Fest and Halloween party, where the children enjoyed yummy treats and played fun games with their friends!



GREEN FROGS

Ms. Fran and Ms. Stephani

This month, the Green Frogs concluded our study on shapes. Using the knowledge of recognizing different shapes, we put the shapes together to make some of our favorite images. The Frogs made ice cream cones with triangles and circles, and pictures of their houses with squares, rectangles, and triangles. This was also a great way to exercise our fine motor skills while using scissors, and pincher grips on our pencils and markers. To celebrate Halloween, we finished our study in a spooktacular way, by using shapes to make bats, pumpkins, witch hats, and more!

The Green Frogs were very excited to welcome their grandparents to Grandparents' Tea! We spent a long time preparing to make it a great day. As a gift, the Frogs posed for pictures in front of the flowers we planted in the spring and painted popsicle sticks to make a colorful frame. We also practiced singing our song with hand motions to perform for our grandparents. When the day came, we enjoyed taking our grandparents out to the playground, and to the garden to see all the decorations for fall. Finally, we are so grateful for all the wonderful books that our grandparents purchased for our classroom! We will be sure to use them all year!

Finally, the Frogs had so much fun at our Halloween party! We had a blast playing pin the boo on the ghost, pumpkin toss, scoop the eyeball from the cauldron, and many more.

We made fun of chocolate donut spiders and eyeball grapes. We loved everyone's costumes and showed them off to our friends during our parade around the school.

BLUE GILLS

Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Wendy

All things Fall! The Blue Gills had a great time exploring nature as we learned all about the changes of the seasons. First, we took a walk around the Kid Country campus and checked out the different kinds of trees.

We identified trees by their shape and learned new words like Coniferous and Juniper. Then, we learned that each kind of tree has its own kind of leaf. Some leaves were shaped like the leaves we usually identify with while others were in the form of needles. We had fun making crayon rubbings and leaf collections to help with our identification skills.

We even took time to find out how trees benefit us. Finding out that trees give us the oxygen that we breathe, and that they bear fruit that we eat, and they provide a place for animals to live was all eye-opening. Fall is a beautiful season that gives so many opportunities for learning and fun. From the temperature changes that cause the color changes to the preparations for Winter, there is so much to do in the Fall!



ORANGE OWLS

Ms. Bailey, Ms. Krista, and Ms. Emily K.

The Orange Owls were thrilled to continue their study of farms in the month of October! We centralized our first week around the more structural and equipment side of farming. These lessons discussed shapes, letter recognition, and math skills. The Owls had fun painting what they thought barns looked like, creating different farm animals with a variety of art concepts, and talking in detail about what animals gave us and what different crops are grown on farms.

As our study came to an end with farming, the Orange Owls dove into a new study of the season of Fall and pumpkins. We started by helping with the garden and learning about the cycle of life and plants. We talked about how plants and flowers flourish with the sunlight and water, and then discussed the end of their lives when it becomes cold. While talking about this, we encouraged the Owls to help Miss Fran deconstruct the garden and pull the weeds and old vegetables out to make room for new one's next year.

We concluded this month by welcoming our grandparents into the classroom to spend quality time with their grandchildren and get to know their grandchildren's teachers a little bit more. We recognize that the home-to-school relationships that we form are crucial for children's development! Another fun activity that Kid Country had this month was allowing the Fire Department to come into our parking lot for the kids to learn about fire safety!

We lastly had our second annual Fall Fest to celebrate the leaves falling and the start of a new season! The children loved playing several different games and experiencing different interactions outside of the classroom.

BLUE DOLPHINS

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

The Blue Dolphins were in full swing of the Halloween spirit for the month of October. Right off the bat, the children were intrigued with bats, Miss Donna K. researched interesting facts about bats and even a few books. The children learned many facts and different aspects of bats and how they live.

The Blue Dolphins used their new knowledge of bats to create their very own bats; they had free choice of materials and a blank slate to create their bats. The variety of bats are on display in the hallway across from the classroom door.

The Blue Dolphins capped their month of fun with a self-created play.



The play was written by the students attending Anna MacDonald and presented to our younger Blue Dolphins from Wilson Creek. The play was titled "The Bad Luck Bat," the children used their imagination and communication skills to create a great production.

Overall, October was a busy month in Blue Dolphins even though the children's daily time is short here at Kid Country, Miss Donna K. makes every minute count for learning opportunities.

The class is looking forward to the month of November and the fun Thanksgiving will bring.



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School Hours: Mon - Fri - 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sat - Sun - Closed

