



Kid Country

CHILDCARE

www.kidcountrymanhattan.com

# CROSSINGS

NUMBER 12 VOLUME 19

DECEMBER 2020



#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

8th -- Vinny  
21st -- Madison D.  
21st -- Bailey S.



## Holiday Appreciation

This is the last newsletter for the year 2020, and I'm not sure if I should shout for joy or cry! This has definitely been a year for the record books. We started 2020 with 112 children enrolled in our various programs. After closing for six weeks in March, we re-opened in May with only 16! I'm proud to say that as I write this today, we have 97 children currently in our programs! While we are not back to 100%, we are well on our way!

We could not have re-built our enrollment without your trust! Thank you to each of you that have trusted us to care for your child! It does not go unnoticed that you, even during the midst of a pandemic, had the faith in Kid Country to continue to provide a safe, healthy environment for your child. We have done our absolute best to ensure that our facility is clean and safe for your children. But we have also put a focus on maintaining some sense of "normal" for the children. We have worked hard at having fun while learning, even while wearing masks and limiting our exposure to others. We continue to provide a safe, loving environment where your children can grow and learn comfortably!

We are committed to ending the year on a high note! While we may not be able to have our traditional holiday show, we will still be singing our hearts

out with Christmas songs! The children will be getting in the spirit of the season while doing many holiday themed activities, singing, special story times, holiday parties and an extra full day of Christmas events as well! We will not let anything bring our holiday spirit down!

As we bring the year to a close, I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of our wonderful teachers and staff! Their positivity and commitment to providing quality early care and education has been second to none this year! I also want to personally tell you that I appreciate each and everyone of you for all the support you have given me and Kid Country this year. We would not have made it through the year without it! We have a wonderful family here at Kid Country!

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful Christmas with your family and that your entire family remains safe and healthy.

*Merry  
Christmas  
everyone!*

*Donna*

# YELLOW DUCKS

The month of November in the Yellow Ducks continued to strengthen their overall gross motor development. The continuous stimulation of the gross (large) motor skills is very beneficial to each child's whole development. A manner of infant's development is the principle of proximodistal which means they develop from the center of their body to the outer parts of their bodies.

The Yellow Ducks classroom strives for fun tummy time for the children of all stages of abilities. For the youngest children we begin by laying them on their tummies for a very short period of time with a goal of expanding their tummy time over the course of a month. By expanding their tummy time each day, or every few days depending on the child, we continually strengthen their inner core muscles in a positive manner to keep tummy time a positive experience. In

addition, for the older children we begin to expand their tummy time experience by placing toys on the side of them to foster their peripheral vision and their ability to equally use each side of their body.

Finally, for the children entering their toddler years we create more challenging activities for them to complete such as completing an art activity while on their tummy to engage more muscle groups. The main objective of

the continuous tummy time activities and experiences is to build their core muscles, improve the babies' coordination, and their balance and flexibility.



The Yellow Ducks also enjoyed the turkey season by creating little turkeys with Bingo daubers and foot prints that were as sweet as pie. Ms. Leslie assisted the children by either

# GREEN FROGS

This month the Green Frogs explored the different parts of a tree and how a tree grows. They also expanded their understanding on how apples grow on trees. To start our month, the Green Frogs created a classroom tree, where they added

leaves for their tree. They expanded their fine motor skills by cutting out an apple shape in various colors. They identified different shapes that make up a tree and created their own.

The Green Frogs were able to use an apple for an apple stamping art activity, where they noticed different patterns of the apple core. We discussed that the seeds would grow more apple trees.

The Green Frogs taste tested three kinds of apples and graphed which one was their favorite. They were surprised to discover that the apples were not as sour as they hypothesized. The



participating in hand over hand or simply verbally guiding the children through the fine motor activity. The colorful daubers provided a great accent of color to the brown body of the turkey. The Yellow Ducks made sweet pieces of pies with their tiny footprints! The paint felt cool on their little feet and we talked about the different flavors of pie seen at Thanksgiving.

This November we expressed thankfulness and gratitude for our ability to still be together at Kid Country. The Yellow Ducks classroom loved interacting with one another and experiencing new milestones. Miss Emily, Miss Leslie and Miss Karen G.

Green Frogs continued to develop their pincher grip and fine motor skills by using tongs to pick up pom poms and place it onto a tree.

The Green Frogs were encouraged to build on their number recognition and counting skills with a handprint tree activity, where they were asked to identify a numbered card and add the number of apples to their tree. As we introduced the letter T, we discussed what it means to be thankful in preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday. We graphed our favorite holiday foods, and their favorite was turkey. The Green Frogs were able to create their own paper plate turkey with a letter of their name on each feather. They strengthened their letter recognition abilities in identifying the letters of their own name.

The Green Frogs also enjoyed the Thanksgiving festivities by creating a turkey centerpiece. We celebrated our Thanksgiving feast, trying all the delicious holiday food. To wrap up the month, the day after our feast, the Green Frogs were excited to spend the day in their comfy pajamas for pajama day!

We are now looking forward to all the exciting December activities! Miss Fran, Miss Wendy, and Miss Kelly

# PURPLE PARROTS

The Purple Parrots have loved learning all about being thankful, friendships, turkeys, and everything Thanksgiving this November! The Parrots began the month off by discovering what “friendship” is all about. A key part of friendship is learning how to share with one another. This is something we want each Purple Parrot to work on throughout their time in our classroom. As a class, we worked on these skills through various games and singing some songs about sharing. Then we also created art together by using our handprints and fingerprints to make a beautiful tree to decorate our classroom! The toddlers each decorated a puzzle piece to put together to make a larger puzzle. There are great friendships in the Purple Parrots classroom, and we are very thankful for each one!

The Parrots are thankful for anything

Thanksgiving related this month as well. This included a whole week dedicated to Thanksgiving food! We painted with corn on the cob, made our own “vegetable” soup, created a slice of pumpkin pie with paint, glitter, and cotton balls, and finally made a menu that focused on Turkey Day! Speaking of turkeys, they have loved learning about turkeys and the fun noises that they make! This also helps expand their vocabulary and language skills. The toddlers have “pinned” feathers on a turkey, used their own handprints to make one, figured out different ways to use a toilet paper roll to make turkey, and practiced their fine motor skills to “feed” a decorated water bottle that looked like a turkey.

The toddlers are thankful for a lot this year despite the craziness that may have come with 2020. The Parrots are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season. As Christmas inches closer, the temperatures will begin to drop as well! We are asking for our families to dress their toddlers for the colder weather with hats,



gloves, and a heavier coat. We are excited to have some time out in the snow when that time comes!

Miss Victoria, Miss Kathy, Miss Emily S., and Miss Karen G.



# RED ROBINS

The month of November saw many weather changes that the Red Robins had to work with! At this age, it is vital and important that your child gets outside and explores their motor skills. Outdoor play has been shown to leave children with more advanced motor skills including their fine and gross motor skills that involve coordination, balance and agility. By allowing children to test their physical abilities, they strengthen their bodies and become more confident in their movements. In saying all of this, the Robins



venture outside as much as possible throughout the days of the week. As the weather continues to drop, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for

all weather and outdoor play! The month of November also brought about a new study! The Robins have been diving into learning about farm animals and also all other aspects of farming such as vegetables, vehicles and much more! We have talked about sequences of animals, how many

are in our “pen” and the colors of the animals as well. We explored several different forms of artwork through creating chickens, pigs, cows and an apple tree.

The following months will start to show challenges as the weather continues to drop and we are forced to stay inside. This will make great opportunities for us to work on fine motor skills and also language skills. We can’t wait to see what next month has in store for us!

Miss Krista, Miss Sara and Miss Jenna



# ORANGE OWLS Blue Gills

The Orange Owls spent their month down at the Kid County farm! We have taken much of our farm time to focus on growing our fine motor capabilities. The Owls were able to use various animals in their fine motor fun! We worked not only on our scissor skills regularly but also on the proper grasp of writing utensils. To incorporate both our scissor and writing skills we made a dairy farm! We were able to cut out the various parts of our cow, draw on its spots, and then glue them all together to be placed to graze in our freshly cut grass that we also made!

Our names are especially important to each of us. Together the Owls have been discussing and comparing the letters and letter sounds that are in each of their names. We used this desire for letters with various opportunities during both large and small group times. A few of the favorites being able to help the uppercase cows find their matching lowercase friends as well as spell out our names on miniature cows that we then glued onto their "field".

Many items we use in our day-to-day life come from farms and farmers. We listed the foods that we have at both home and school and expressed which ones are some of our favorites. It took some in depth thinking but were able to narrow some of our favorites down to milk and of course ice-cream! With all of these delicious foods being discussed we needed to know where some of them came from. We learned new vocabulary such as orchards, stalks, utters, and combines. Each of these words helped us either produce or harvest our precious foods.

We are excited to see what next month brings!  
Miss Bailey, Miss Molly and Miss Kelly

The Blue Gills came in this month so excited to be here! Our study of trees was an exciting adventure inside and out. We loved going on a walk around the property to check out the different kinds of trees and what kinds of leaves they had. The colors were still prominent and finding the perfect ones for our projects was fun! From making leaf people from our collected leaves to painting Fall colors with pine branches, art time was creative from beginning to end. Then, just as fast as preschool started it was time for a Covid break again. We hope that all of you enjoy your time at home staying healthy. We will see you back here at Kid Country as soon as we are safe to do so again.

Miss Rhonda and Miss Jessica

# Blue Dolphins Happy Holidays!

The Blue Dolphins have really enjoyed the fact that they are having a large motor time here at Kid Country instead of having their regular PE classes twice a week. We are able to take a break from our sitting routines and get outside to run around and stretch our legs. We have started a calisthenics time to get our hearts racing and help with digesting lunch. There are jumping jacks, lunges, squats, planks, and running and jumping in place to get our heartrates up. For cooldown, we throw in a few yoga poses and a little meditation to calming music to get us back into learning mode. Once we go back to full remote learning, we will have to have a couple of these brain breaks throughout our days. Anything to take our minds off of schoolwork and get away from the screens!  
Ms. Rhonda, Miss Donna and Ms. Jessica

