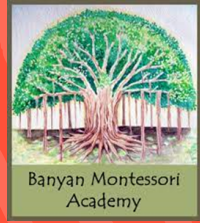


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter



November 2024

Toddler Montessori classroom

Dear Parents,

As November comes to a close, we are excited to share all the wonderful activities and learning experiences your children enjoyed this month. It has been a month full of discovery, creativity, and growth!

Themes of the Month

Wild Animals- This month, we explored the fascinating world of wild animals. The children engaged in various matching activities, such as:

- Big and Small Matching: Sorting animals by size.
- Image Matching: Pairing black-and-white images with their corresponding color versions.
- Animal and Object Matching: Matching images of animals with small plastic animal figures, helping them connect real objects with visual representations.

We also expanded the friends' vocabulary by learning the names of different animals, focusing on pronunciation and recognition. The toddlers were thrilled to mimic animal sounds and movements, adding a fun and interactive element to the learning process.

Classification of Big and Small:

We explored the concept of size by comparing and sorting objects into "big" and "small" categories. The children enjoyed hands-on activities that encouraged them to observe and differentiate between sizes. These exercises helped develop their cognitive and problem-solving skills while introducing basic math concepts.

Thanksgiving:

Thanksgiving was a wonderful opportunity to teach the children about gratitude and togetherness. Through stories, art projects, cookery and group discussions, they learned to express what they are thankful for. This theme was reinforced with creative activities, such as making artwork that celebrated family, friends, and the joys of the season.

Art, Music, and Theatre with Ms. Monica

- Music and Movement: The children had a great time singing Grey Squirrel while, engaging in scarf play. This activity helped them develop coordination, rhythm, and the ability to follow instructions in a fun, playful way.

Art and Theatre:

- We introduced the artist Henri Matisse, focusing on his vibrant and creative style.
- Inspired by Matisse's work, the children collaborated on a beautiful painting using autumn leaves. This activity encouraged teamwork and allowed each child to contribute their unique touch.

The toddlers loved immersing themselves in these creative experiences, and it was delightful to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow.

Independence in Action

Our toddlers are becoming more independent each day, taking pride in accomplishing tasks on their own. This month, they practiced:

- Putting on and taking off their shoes and jackets.
- Washing their dishes and cleaning their workspaces after activities.
- Cleaning their noses independently.
- Making choices about what materials to work with from the classroom shelves.
- Asking for help only when needed and trying to solve small challenges independently.

These milestones are essential for their development, and they should feel very proud of themselves for all they are accomplishing.

Art Activities

The children enjoyed exploring different art techniques this month. Their favorites included:

- Coloring: Using crayons and markers to create unique designs.
- Stickers: Practicing fine motor skills by peeling and placing stickers.
- Painting: Experimenting with brushes and finger painting to explore colors and textures.
- Dot Making: Using dot markers to create patterns and enhance hand-eye coordination.

These activities not only nurture creativity but also help develop fine motor skills and focus.

Ground Rules

We continue to work on our classroom ground rules, reinforcing respect, kindness, and responsibility. With consistent reminders, the children have shown great improvement in following the rules and understanding their importance. Some of the key ground rules include:

- Hands are for helping, not for hurting.
- Taking turns and sharing materials with peers.

- Cleaning up after themselves.
- Using kind words and actions during group activities.

They are making wonderful progress, and they should feel proud of the effort they put into creating a harmonious classroom environment.

Math

This month, we made math fun and interactive by incorporating it into daily routines and activities. The children practiced:

- Counting Songs: Singing songs to learn counting sequences.
- Counting Friends: Counting how many classmates attended each day.
- Number Recognition: Engaging in activities to recognize numbers 1 through 5.

We also introduced two exciting Montessori materials from the sensorial curriculum:

- Knobbed Cylinders: These wooden cylinders fit into corresponding sockets, helping the children develop fine motor skills, size differentiation, and problem-solving abilities.
- Knob less Cylinders: A variation of the knobbed cylinders, these allow for free exploration and stacking, sparking creativity and spatial awareness.

The toddlers thoroughly enjoyed these hands-on activities and showed great enthusiasm as they practiced and mastered new skills.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. It's a joy to see your children grow and learn each day. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Toddler Montessori Team

Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art

(Toddler) 11/22/24

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Grey Squirrel (with scarf play)

Grey Squirrel

Grey Squirrel

Swish your bushy tail

Grey Squirrel

Grey Squirrel

Swish your bushy tail
Wrinkle up your little nose
hold a nut between your toes

Grey Squirrel

Grey Squirrel

Swish your bushy tail

Song: Crunchy Leaves (with tambourines)

(To the tune of Hot Cross Buns)

Crunchy Leaves

Crunchy Leaves

It is Autumn

It is Autumn

Crunchy Leaves

Introduce Artist: Henri Matisse

We will make a collaborative painting with autumn leaves in the style of Henri Matisse.

Song: Goodbye song



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents and Families,

As we reflect on the month of November, we are delighted to share the progress and learning that unfolded in our Montessori classroom. Our students have been fully engaged in hands-on activities across all areas of the curriculum, from language and math to sensorial exploration and practical life skills. It has been a month of growth, discovery, and community-building.

Parent-Teacher Conference

Thank you to all the families who attended our Parent-Teacher Conference on November 15th. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with you, discuss your child's individual growth, and celebrate their progress. We truly appreciate your support and collaboration in nurturing each child's educational journey.

Math & Sensorial Exploration

This month, our Montessori students delved into a variety of foundational math concepts:

The Exchange Game introduced the concept of place value, where children used golden beads to exchange units and practice trading tens and hundreds.

Dynamic Layout helped children practice addition with carrying through engaging hands-on work.

Simple Addition continued with bead frames and addition strip boards, enabling children to visualize and internalize math facts.

Squaring Chains provided an opportunity for students to explore the relationship between multiplication and squaring, gaining a deeper understanding of number patterns.

In the Sensorial area, children refined their senses through meaningful activities:

Smelling Bottles invited children to explore different scents and develop their sense of smell.

Trinomial Cube, a classic Montessori material, helped children grasp early algebraic concepts while enhancing fine motor skills.

Hard and Soft Sorting introduced children to classifying objects by texture, a key skill in both science and daily life.

Geometric Solids and its extensions allowed children to explore three-dimensional shapes, matching them with their corresponding flat bases.

Practical Life/Everyday living Skills

Our practical life / everyday living activities fostered independence and self-care:

Putting on Mittens and Coats helped children practice fine motor skills and become more self-sufficient as the weather turned colder.

Food Preparation continued to be a favorite activity: children mixed yogurt with fruits like bananas, strawberries, and blueberries, and spread cheese on crackers, honing both motor skills and an appreciation for healthy foods.

Science & Geography

In Science, children explored the Five Senses, learning about sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing through Montessori materials. They also enjoyed learning about Zoological Animals, discovering various species and their habitats.

Additionally, our studies of North America included exploring the geography, landmarks, and cultures of the continent, using maps, flags, and visual aids to help children connect with the world around them.

Thanksgiving -all meal prep:

This month, we also celebrated the season of gratitude with a special Thanksgiving meal. Our children took on the responsibility of preparing a variety of dishes, including vegetable and fruit salads, creamy corn, pancakes, and more. After preparing the meal, they served it to their friends and staff, practicing skills such as teamwork, food preparation, and sharing. We all enjoyed a delightful lunch together, building community and fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in their accomplishments.

We are thankful for the continued growth, learning, and partnerships that make our Montessori community so special. Wishing you all a warm and joyful holiday season!

Warmly,

Montessori Preprimary Team

Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art

(Pre-primary)

11/22/24

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Family of the Sun

We will practice this song we learned in September in preparation to share it with families on December 20th.

Song: Catch a Falling Star

We will learn this song together and it will be used in the play "How the Stars Came to Be" which will be performed for families on December 20th.

Lyrics

Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket

Never let it fade away

Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket

Save it for a rainy day

For love may come and tap you on the shoulder

Some starless night
Just in case you feel you wanna' hold her
You'll have a pocketful of starlight
Chorus repeats
For when your troubles start multiplying
And they just might
It's easy to forget them without trying
With just a pocketful of starlight
Chorus repeats

Theatre

Review the story: How the Stars Came to Be- this storyline is what we will use to create a play together

Character work- Characters/roles will be assigned to children for our upcoming performance on December 20th.

Rehearse- We will rehearse where the children will be standing, moving, and acting during the play, what they do with their props, what lines are spoken, what songs are sung, etc. . . .

Art

Introduce artist, Henri Matisse, and make Autumn Leaves artwork in his style. Students will learn about this artist and the type of art he made. They will practice composition and color contrast while they create their own artwork inspired by Matisse using the shapes of Autumn leaves.



Enrichment programs

Dear Parents,

Hello Everyone!

In this exciting November edition, we have elaborated on different international language sessions:

Hindi:

Learning Hindi Numbers: "Ek Do Theen"

This month, we started learning Hindi numbers! We've been practicing how to count from 1 to 10. Here's a quick review:

1 = Ek (एक)

2 = Do (दो)

3 = Teen (तीन)

4 = Chaar (चार)

5 = Paanch (पाँच)

6 = Cheh (छह)

7 = Saat (सात)

8 = Aath (आठ)

9 = Nau (नौ)

10 = Das (दस)

Try practicing these numbers at home or with friends and family. Counting in Hindi is fun and a great way to improve your language skills!

Colors in Hindi: "Rangon Ki Duniya"

This month, we also learned some basic colors in Hindi! Here are a few to remember:

Black = Kaala (काला)

White = Safed (सफ़ेद)

Pink = Gulabi (गुलाबी)

Try to spot these colors in your surroundings and say them in Hindi. It will help you connect more with the language!

Farm Animals in Hindi: "Khet Ki Janwar"

We also explored the names of some common farm animals in Hindi. Here are a few to get started:

Cow = Gaay (गाय)

Sheep = Bhed (भेड़)

House (Home for animals) = Ghar (घर)

Bear = Bhaloo (भालू)

Next time you're on a farm (or looking at farm animal pictures), try saying the animal names in Hindi!"

Mandarin:

Big and Small: Make two origami snails and compare their sizes. Dance with your hands while singing the song about "Big and Small." Observe pictures and match them. Find wings for ladybugs of different sizes.

Big 大 (da)

Small 小 (xiao)

Body Parts: Compare the sizes of origami sharks to review big and small, colors, and numbers. Introduce human body parts. Sing a song and do a finger dance.

Head 头 (tou)

Hand 手 (shou)

Eye 眼睛 (yanjing)

Nose 鼻子 (bizi)

Ear 耳朵 (erduo)

Mouth 嘴巴 (zuiba)

Leg 腿 (tui)

Foot 脚 (jiao)

Expressing Feelings: Learn to express four different feelings: happy, sad, angry, and scared. Dance and sing a song called "Clapping Your Hands If You Are Happy." Differentiate between the four emojis made of eggs.

Happy 开心 (kaixin)

Sad 伤心 (Shangxin)

Angry 生气 (shengqi)

Scared 害怕 (Haipa)

Shapes: Recognize five different shapes. Make a circle, triangle, rectangle, and square with your fingers. Observe and match pictures. Review colors and numbers.

Circle 圆形 (yuanxing)

Triangle 三角形(sanjiaoxing)

Rectangle 长方形 (changfangxing)

Square 正方形 (zhengfangxing)

[Mandarin Song Youtube link](#)

Spanish:

During the month of November, our Spanish lessons focused on exploring colors and animals through engaging and interactive activities:

1. Seasonal Colors:

We focused on observing the beautiful colors of leaves during this season, such as reds (rojo), yellows (amarillo), oranges (naranja), and browns (café). By bringing real leaves into the classroom, the children were able to see these vibrant colors up close, connect with nature, and learn their names in Spanish. This activity made the experience engaging and meaningful while expanding their vocabulary.

2. Exploring More Colors:

We expanded our exploration of colors by introducing red (rojo), blue (azul), purple (morado), green (verde), pink (rosa), yellow (amarillo), orange (naranja), and brown (café) during a group activity. The children participated in a color-sorting game using cards with objects in these colors. This activity reinforced their understanding of color names in Spanish while developing their classification and organizational skills.

3. Introduction to Animal Names:

We began learning the names of animals in Spanish using a book. The friends enjoyed exploring the book, and it remains available in the classroom for them to revisit and continue practicing independently.

Expanding Spanish vocabulary in meaningful and engaging ways.

A Robot visits Banyan Montessori Academy:

In Montessori, we believe in hands-on learning and exploring new ideas. The robotics demonstration was a perfect example of this! The Bionic Beans team showed how robots can help solve problems, like lifting and moving things. Just like how we learn through play and experimenting, robots also learn to do tasks through programming and practice. It's exciting to see how technology and creativity can work together, and we can be part of making amazing things happen too! One of the sixth graders on the robotics team was actually one of our alumni from 9 years ago, which was a wonderful reminder of how far we can go with curiosity and innovation.

Thank you all families who were able to make it. Here is the link to view few pictures and a video:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zCmQNhFz4TwrvGnM8>

Ms. Anuja's Science based Art session :

Throughout the November we focused on physics behind the everyday activities.

We started this month with an exciting experiment to explore more about 'X-rays'. To learn about its real world use in medical imaging, we created a 'Hand X-ray' craft using black paper and q-tips cotton swabs.

We learned about 'Simple Pendulum' which is a physics behind the playground swings. Pendulum explains 'Newton's first law of motion' in an easy way. We recreated 'Circular Pendulum Abstract Art' by using a color filled paper cup as a pendulum.

For the physics behind everyday activity, we learned about gravity. Our little scientist friends were curious to know the answers to some of the simple questions like why we come down when we jump up high, what happens in zero gravity, how astronauts live in the space station, and more. We made a 'Drip Art' to understand gravity.

Ms. Naga's cookery session :

Date : 11/26/24

Creamed Corn

Time : 10mins

INGREDIENTS

- Frozen corn - 24oz
- Heavy cream/Whole milk - 1/2 cup
- Butter - 1 stick
- Salt - 1/4 tsp
- Pepper - 1/4 tsp
- Cream cheese - 8oz

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place all of the ingredients in the Instant Pot and secure the lid.
- Turn the pressure to HIGH and cook for 3 minutes. When the cook cycle is complete, perform a Quick Release. Open the lid, stir, and enjoy!

Warm regards,

The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team

Read , Reflect and Implement

7 PRACTICES TO DEVELOP CHARACTER

by Cassi Mackey, M.Ed.

We want to raise our children to be great human beings, but how do we develop strength of character in our children? According to Dr. Montessori, "Character formation cannot be taught. It comes from experience and not from explanation."

Centering strong character traits in your family through modeling, experiences, and conversations is the foundation of developing strength of character. Practicing character is a daily decision that needs to be made, time and time again. Practice brings permanence if it is purposeful and deliberate.

What follows are seven practices in helping children start to develop strong character.

Practicing Integrity

- Model integrity. Live your values. Do your actions and words reflect your family values?
- Articulate your family values so they become a natural way of thinking and behaving.
- Develop a moral vocabulary. Children need to understand words, such as honesty, trust, fairness, integrity, etc. Teach children behaviors that embody these words.
- Acknowledge children when they are demonstrating integrity, not rewarding them but acknowledging them by telling them how much you value their behavior.
- Discuss and give examples of the effects your child's actions have on themselves and on others.
- Respond to children's behavior with calmness and consistency. Be open to listening to your child's reasoning for an action before instinctually admonishing and correcting, then remind them of the expectations and decide on a natural consequence that is consistent and clearly understood.

Practicing Kindness

- Model kindness. Children learn how to relate with others by observing the adults around them and how they treat other people. Show them what it means to be kind and name the action as kindness.

Try to always speak kindly to your children, especially when you are tired, frustrated, or angry.

- Share stories of kindness, whether personal stories, stories in books, stories on the news, etc. Stories are a wonderful way of building an understanding of kindness.

- Assess the teasing in your household. Is it demeaning, provoking, or humiliating?

Remember, children learn how to play and interact with peers by their own experiences at home.

- Discuss how their behavior affects those around them, whether it is positive or negative.
- Give your children opportunities to serve others. Show them that holding a door open for someone, smiling and saying hello, and thanking the cashier, are all demonstrations of kindness.
- Expect kindness when your child speaks to you. When your child speaks to you rudely, simply state how you would like to be talked to. Do not get into an exchange with them, just simply state your preferred specifics of communication. Be consistent.

Do not let poor tone or attitude slide.

Practicing Positivity

- Model being positive. Take the time to monitor how you present your life experience to your children. Do they hear you regularly speaking positively or negatively?

Try to point out the good side of events and experiences.

- Address failure as an opportunity for growth. Help your children self-evaluate situations. Ask the questions: What went well and what would you change if you could? Encourage your child to develop a plan of action to effect change the next time around.
- Challenge your children when they are personalizing ("It was all my fault") globalizing ("I always make mistakes"), or catastrophizing ("I will never do anything right"). You do not have to contradict your children's explanation, but encourage them to come up with positive outcomes to the situation.
- Encourage children to set their own goals and think through how they plan on achieving them. This process gives them agency and a sense of competence that often leads to success. Encourage them to focus on the best possible outcomes and, as such, they will align their thoughts in that way and work toward achieving the outcome they want.

Practicing Gratitude

- Model gratitude. Make it a habit to notice and verbalize the things for which you are grateful.
- Ask your children questions to help them start to notice things that deserve gratitude: What have you noticed today that you were given that you are grateful for? and, Are there things in your life that you are grateful for that aren't gifts or material things?
- Create space for conversations regarding how they feel when they receive something (including non-material things).

Help them associate positive feelings with someone else's actions. As often as possible, highlight the idea that people and events can give us good feelings.

- Teach gratitude through action. Ask your children if there is a way that they would like to show how they feel about a gift, an event, or a person. Children can use their special talent or interest, for example, and make up a song and/or paint a picture to express their gratitude.

Practicing Flexibility

- Model flexibility. Tell children when and how you are being flexible as things come up throughout the day, whether as part of a minor or major event. Explain how you are being flexible and, when appropriate, involve children in the new plan. the routine at home every once in a while, helping them become accustomed to managing change.
- Change the rules to board games; start out with small changes, so they can see how they can adjust. Then, make more changes.
- Give positive reinforcement when your children demonstrate flexibility and change their course of action.
- Teach your child strategies to take when a change occurs. Teach them to stop and breathe, state the problem, consider at least three possible solutions, then select one to try.

Practicing Effort

- Model effort. Show your willingness to take risks and try new things, even when they are hard.
- Acknowledge effort, bravery, risk-taking, open-mindedness, and keeping a positive outlook.
- Teach children to monitor their effort.

Help them reflect on whether they gave their best in an activity.

- Help children recognize and celebrate their effort by asking them, What was something you did today where you felt proud of how hard you tried?
- Make it easy to work hard by preparing the environment with the tools they need to succeed with a task.
- Help your children work through challenges by modeling self-talk. Children can learn how to persist if they talk out the problem, coupled with positive self-talk.
- Show your children the progress they have made. Remind them of where they started and how far they have come.

Practicing Accountability

- Model personal accountability. Demonstrate accountability by apologizing and making amends when necessary. You will show your children you are responsible for the consequences of your actions.
- It is important that your children know exactly what is expected of them and the consequences of not meeting expectations.

They also need to know what is non-negotiable and what is open for discussion and mutual agreement.

- Allow your children to be responsible for their actions. Even a three-year-old can clean up a spill; spilling is normal, but cleaning up the spill is also normal.
- Parents should not point fingers or make children feel defensive about behavior.

They should acknowledge when a child owns up to a mistake, and help them come up with a solution on how to make amends; and do something differently next time.

- Give children age-appropriate choices and chores.
- Encourage children to participate in decision-making to develop accountability.

The road to strong character is paved with practice. It is a journey, and it is going to have ups and downs. The term practicing is not inadvertent. Have patience and remember what your ultimate goal is for your child.

Upcoming events

Nov 27-29 - Thanksgiving break . No school.

Dec 13- Public presentation in the morning and Friday Afternoon with Ms. Monica (Art, Music, Theater)

Dec 16- Food drive for the hungry

Dec 20 - 10:30 am - Theater presentation by Preprimary/ Kindergarten friends

Dec 25,26, 27 and Dec 30 to Jan 3 - Christmas break, Winter break and Professional development.

Upcoming events

Jan 6- School Resumes

We will have Hindi, Mandarin and Spanish on all Tuesday's (p.m), Wednesday's(p.m) and Thursday's(a.m)

We will have Ms. Anuja's science inspired art on all Wednesday's(a.m).

We will have 2 cookery sessions for 11/26 and 12/20 .

In house field trips do not have a set schedule it is based on the presenters availability. We will keep you posted

