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Autism Spectrum Disorders: Recognizing the Early Signs

Autism spectrum disorders are developmental disabilities that can cause social, language, and behavior problems. Their symptoms and severity vary greatly, which can make them hard to define or diagnose. Looking out for early warning signs and symptoms can mean the important difference between early detection and intervention. More intervention early on can mean smaller developmental delays later in life.

If you believe that your child demonstrates 2 or more of the following symptoms, it might be a good idea to have them screened for autism spectrum disorders.

Always
Unique
Totally
Interesting
Sometimes
Mysterious

Physical development is delayed or your child has difficulty with fine motor skills even after opportunities for practice. Social signs and symptoms include poor eye contact, preferring to play alone, and resisting cuddling. Other symptoms include repeating words or phrases meaninglessly, intense difficulty with changes to routine, repeating movements, or sensitivity to light, sound or touch. Children with autism spectrum disorders often do not engage in pretend play, like playing house or pretending to drive a car.

If you are concerned that your child might be exhibiting these symptoms, talk to your child's teacher. Share your concern and ask the teacher to be on the lookout for warning signs as well. Also, make use of the ASQ Ages and Stages website and questionnaire!

This screening tool is available to all of our parents online and can help you to understand and plan for your child's development whether they exhibit signs of autism spectrum disorders or not. For more information on the ASQ Ages and Stages Screening tool, talk to Angelo.

For more about autism spectrum disorders and signs/symptoms: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism>

**April Is
AUTISM
Month**

TAKE NOTE

- Please take precautions to protect your child against lice and do not send your child to school with lice. Information on how to handle lice is available in Mr. Robert's office and can be emailed to you as well.



UPCOMING DATES

- April 17th is PICTURE DAY
- CLOSED Friday, April 18th for Good Friday
- World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser will begin at the end of the month. Funds will be due in advance.

Ms. Jackie's Teddy Bears Class 2-year-olds



Shamrock Art

Last month the children worked on Math and did activities pertaining to counting, patterns, graphing, classification, and more. The children also did a take-home project of shamrocks. This

month the children will continue to work on Math especially counting 1-20. Also, because we are in the new season we will be celebrating spring with a lot of spring art projects. In addition to the spring fun, the children will be learning about Easter and we will be having a fun Easter egg hunt for the month of April. Furthermore, the

weather will be getting warmer so we are asking parents to please check cubbies and make sure that you update your child's clothing. Also, because the weather is becoming a little warmer, we will be having our nature walks and outdoor time in the playground so be sure to bring your with a jacket everyday.

Ms. Claudia's Butterflies Class 3-year-olds

I would first like to start out by saying that it is with great sadness that this will be my last month with Toddler Town. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 10 years with the school and more importantly the last year with your children. I will have another letter with more details within the upcoming weeks.

The Butterflies had so much fun during our Bee and Butterfly unit that it difficult to wrap it up. The class really enjoyed learning about Caterpillars, Butterflies and various Bees. We were able to create catacombs, paint Butterflies and learn how to fly like a Bee. But since it is a new month, we will bring a new unit entitled: Bubbles,

Boats and Floats! Your children will love splashing up their imagination in this water filled theme. Experiment with what will sink and float. Children will create a pretend river and a sailboat that floats. Water is an important natural resource. Your children will learn how to preserve, appreciate, and protect our water.



Catacombs for Caterpillars

Ms. Megan's Lions Class 3 and 4-year-olds



Kangaroo Pouches

Finally Spring has sprung! Soon the weather will be getting warmer and we can toss our winter coats out the window. The month of March was great! We learned about Dr. Seuss and Spring time and we continued our letter lessons with letter K and L. We also made some great projects like kangaroo pouches and lep-

rechaun faces.

For the month of April, our class will be studying new themes. We will celebrate earth week by learning about different ways we can save the planet, music, and bugs. We will also study the letters M and N. Our class is always excited and ready to learn new things in the world around us.

Parents: If you need any classroom materials to help your child further their education at home, I now have a sign up sheet and different items for you rent from the classroom, so you and your child can practice different lessons at home.

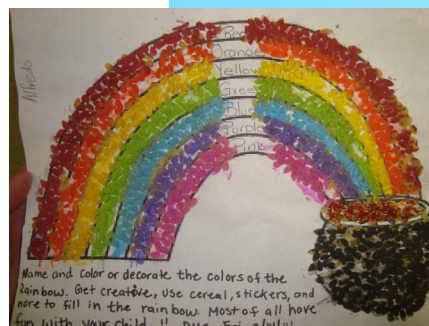
Thank You and Our class is looking forward to our bright futures!

Ms. Selina's Dragons Class 3 and 4-year-olds

This past month the children have worked on recognition of their letters, numbers and their names. As a special lesson this past month the children have did activities pertaining to St. Patrick's Day such as pots of gold, leprechauns and the rainbow. The chil-

dren had a blast with all of the activities. This month the children will work on recognition of more alphabet and numbers and writing their names. The Special activity of the month will pertain to Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, and Chicka Chicka 123.

We will have worksheets, and fun activities that intertwine with the books. We will also celebrate lovely Spring.



Our Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow

Ms. Taga's Bears Class 4 and 5-year-olds



Painting Project

To recap the month of March, we covered the topics of shapes, transportation, spring and umbrellas. We also began our spring projects, one of them being planting our spring flowers. This month we will

be covering the topics of Vegetables, Weather, Yellow and Zoo Animals. We will also be discussing Easter and it's importance. We will be creating Easter projects and continuing with our spring projects on Fridays. In our media table,

we will be adding bugs and lizards to dirt and continuing with observing floating/sinking through science experiments. We will also observe our plants as they continue to grow. It should be an exciting month!

Koalas Class 5-year-olds

In the month of March we said GOOD BYE Winter and Hello SPRING.

The children had a fun time indoors with our hop scotch thanks to Mrs. Elie who visited us frequently last month. The weather was not very kind to us but we made the most of it in our class

with lots of projects and take home activities for parent involvement.

The Koalas focused on classic Dr. Seuss books last month as we practiced rhyming and practicing sight words.

The month of April will bring us more outdoor activities which will include nature walks along

with gross motor assessments.

Parents remember all materials are open to you as resources for your children to borrow. Please see Mr. Robert if you have any questions.



After reading Yertle The Turtle, the children made their own turtles.