

TP4L Newsletter

May 28, 2022



From the Director

Mr. Ollie

The capacity of the human brain to absorb new learning peaks at about age 3

Scientists tell us that the capacity of the human brain to absorb new learning peaks when a child is about age three. Synaptic connections begin before birth and are created at a very fast rate through the age of three. These connections become stronger and more efficient if they're consistently used. Early experiences that are nurturing and actively foster the development of these connections help the brain to develop a more extensive and sophisticated network of neurons. It's the structure of these very important neurons that help us to predict intelligence and behavior in a child's later years. The brain operates on a "use it or lose it" principle. Only those connections that are consistently used are kept. Other connections that aren't used will be discarded so that the active connections can become stronger. This discarding of the unused connections begins during a child's preschool years.

An extensive amount of research has been conducted on early brain development. Based on this research, child development experts recommend that the following five things must be present early in a young child's life for optimal brain development to occur:

- *Positive, reliable, and supportive relationships*
- *Regular routines and consistency, with the opportunity to repeat activities*
- *Opportunities to learn through hands-on and multisensory activities*
- *Exposure to rich, interactive language and reciprocal communication*
- *Opportunities to explore the environment through real-life experiences*

In addition to cognitive (brain) development, the first five years of a child's life are also when the social and emotional skills are developed that will be needed to succeed later in school and in life. Skills such as following directions, sharing, taking turns, working in a group, and being comfortable asking for help are essential social skills that are needed for success as we get older. Young children build these social-emotional skills by experiencing responsive relationships with parents and caregivers. When children trust their caregivers to respond consistently to their needs, they learn to regulate their emotions and behavior. The development of these strong social and emotional skills is the foundation for lifelong learning. Helping children to develop them will help them succeed as students in school and as adults in holding steady jobs.

"Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create." — Maria Montessori

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A Week At-A-Glance

- **Practical Life:** *Rolling/Unrolling a carpet; Carrying a tray*
- **Sensorial:** *Knobbed cylinders*
- **Language:** *Rules of the classroom; sitting on the carpet*
- **Math:** *Counting 1-10 (focus on 5&3)*
- **Care of self:** *Grace and courtesy: cutting fruit and sharing, setting the table, hand washing and cleaning after eating; why we need personal space?*

Things to Know:

- **School Closure:** *Memorial Day-Monday May 30, 2022*

Ladybugs

Ms. Ivonne

Reflection of this past week:

This week, our little Ladybugs focused on Our Environment @ Home, the Letter E, Numbers 1-10, focusing on #5 and #3, and what a rectangle looks like. We also learned about belly breathing using Ms. Ivonne's chimes and smelled rosemary and lemon. Some children even tasted the lemon while we practiced sharing and learned about personal space and catching a bubble.



We created a bedroom picture using glue and cut-outs, and talked about our family and community during our many walks to the park, where we let out our wiggles.

For science, we watched our lima beans sprout roots. One of the beans is growing into a plant. We pretended to be teachers, fire and police workers, or waitresses during dramatic play or expanded our language by working with our blocks and community dolls. We traced the letter E and made paper plate elephants using paint and glue.



We began drawing our family portraits, listened to Jazz, and explored art using various media. We planned a picnic for Thursday, but the weather did not permit it. We will try it again next week.



Dragonfly

Ms. Geraldine



This week in the Dragonfly classroom, the children had lots of fun. We introduced the letter P in language. We talked about the planet, Pluto. We used styrofoam balls and colored popsicle sticks to paint our planet for the sensory lesson. Our math lesson was fun.



We used different shaped wooden blocks and stacked them five high. Our infants got to sit together and socialize using musical instruments. The weather was nice, so we got to take a trip to the park. We had a wonderful week. Have a great Memorial Day weekend.



Have a great week!



Picture of the Week



Baby Emma

Baby Evelyn

**We shall walk together on
this path of life,** for all things
are part of the universe and
are connected with each
other to form one
whole unity.

— Maria Montessori

