



Moving forward to April, our children will explore and learn about Mother Earth

In particular, we will focus on the following topics:

1. Earth in the solar system
2. Earth's rotation (Years and Days)
3. What is earth made of?
4. What can we do to protect the earth?



Character Education – Courage

In April, our children will learn and practice the trait of courage, which refers to mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

Cultural Occasions

Our children will learn about and celebrate these cultural occasions in the coming month:

1. Easter Sunday, April 4th (School is closed)
2. Earth Day, Thursday, April 22nd (School remains open)

Looking back in March, our children had so much fun learning

All about Plants!



We delved into the following topics through observation, nature walk, discussion, and various art projects:

- Differences between plants and animals
- Types of plants (trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and creepers)
- Parts of a plant
- Photosynthesis
- Life cycle of a plant
- What do plants need to survive?

It was so gratifying to hear our children's giggling and laughter along the nature walk, now and then they would exclaim, "Look, I have found a dandelion!" "Wow! That flower is so beautiful!" Each one of our students and staff has planted some green bean seeds in a small cup and laid them out on our nature table. Every day, our little ones would observe the seeds and noticed with great excitement that the seeds gradually sprouted out into seedlings! We then planted the seedlings into our garden, and hope that next year we could harvest some green beans! 😊





Character Education – Creativity

In March, our children learned what means to be creative and they have amazed us with all their imaginations in their daily conversations as well as their beautiful artwork!

Language Learning

In a multi-lingual environment, our children have been exposed to English, Chinese and Spanish languages. Now that they have had some initial experience with the Chinese phonetics and characters, we have adopted a different approach in our Chinese and Spanish language teaching. Instead of learning the vocabularies aligned with our monthly theme, we have been learning daily conversational Chinese and Spanish since the beginning of March.

We have also been cultivating in our children a love for book reading. Apart from circle and story times, we also read books before naptime every day. In a Montessori classroom, our little ones have the freedom to take a break from working and choose a book to read at their own pace. We are so delighted to see that our children love books! Some of the books they especially enjoy are as follows:

1. "Mercy Watson", a series of books by Kate DiCamillo
2. "Biscuit" by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
3. "It's Not Easy Being Lazy" by Pragya Tomar
4. "Ping Pong Pig" by Caroline Jayne Church
5. "Ellie" by Mike Wu



Cultural Studies:

On March 17th St. Patrick's Day, bearing in mind our monthly theme about plants, we carried out a parade around our neighborhood to celebrate this occasion. It was quite a scene to see all of our children and staff wearing something in green! We were all amazed to know that every year the Kelly River in Chicago was dyed green for St. Patrick's Day! More importantly, we were inspired by St. Patrick and decided to follow his suit – never let anything stop us from doing what is right!



Birthdays

1. Ms. Sierra's birthday was on Saturday 3/13, we celebrated it on Friday 3/12. She was so touched by the creative birthday cards which our children put their hearts in designing them!
2. We also celebrated Annie Nguyen's 4th birthday on Thursday, March 25th. Annie's parents made a gorgeous display board with pictures demonstrating the timeline of her life. Attracted by the beautiful pictures, our children crowded in front of the board and Annie was so happy to answer their various questions! 😊



Montessori Wisdom

Teaching of the Child

The child needs many experiences to support readiness to read and to write. The child needs to have performed many exercises of practical life. The use of practical life exercises aids in the perfecting of the eye-hand movement and coordination. Thus in scrubbing the table from left to right and back, the eyes are following the movement of the hands.

The child needs to develop a good visual span. Many slow readers have learned to read with bad habits and one of the main reasons children read slowly may be because of their limited visual span. Slow readers or children with reading problems often start on the left side of the page, read to the center of the page and turn their heads for the second half of the page. This causes them to read slowly and jerkily.



The child must be able to listen well and have good listening habits. The three year old has the ability to hear four times as well as the adult. By the time the child is four years old, this ability has already begun to decrease, and by five the child is most adept at tuning out the sounds he doesn't wish to hear, most decidedly those voices which he finds annoying or which commend him to do things he may not wish to do. Very often those who do not hear most often do not listen. Children can be taught to be better listeners. Listening has to be interesting so the child wants to listen. Auditory games should be played in the classroom.

--Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, p.22

Montessori Quotes & Manifestations

A child who looks at, recognizes, and touches the letters as if he were writing is prepared at one and the same time for reading and writing.

Touching the letters and looking at them at the same time fixes their images more quickly because of the cooperation of the senses. Later the two will be separated: seeing will be employed in reading and touching in writing. According to their different types, some learn how to read first and others how to write.

--Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, p.198





Gratitude

1. Thanks to our parents for those heart-warming reviews! Our program cannot succeed without your trust and support! You can now see all those reviews on the “Testimonials” page of our website: <https://www.gardenofjoymontessori.org>
2. Thanks to Annie’s parents for yet another amazing display board and the yummy birthday cake!
3. Thanks to Tiffany’s mother for all her volunteering work! We are so grateful for your dedicated support Ms. Lan!



Announcements

4. We have finally secured our large daycare license, which means we are able to take a few more students from now on!
5. To celebrate Easter and also with our April theme in mind, we will take another walk in our neighborhood and also have an egg hunt on Friday 4/2. Please make sure your child brings his/her Easter basket to school that morning.
6. Our second staff training took place on Sunday 3/21, which was very productive. Thanks to our amazing teachers for their loving and dedicated care for our little ones!
7. Teacher appreciation week is from May 3rd to May 7th this year. We will follow up with information on how we are going to express our appreciation for our remarkable teachers.



Reminders

8. April 2021 tuition is due by **Monday, April 5th**. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. An invoice will be sent to you soon.
9. With the April monthly theme (Mother Earth) and character education (Courage) in mind, parents please help your child to understand those concepts at home to reinforce their learning.
10. Spring break is from 4/5 to 4/9, school will be closed during that week.

