



During the month of December, our children explored and learned about **“Table Manners”**. We understand that table manners are a way of showing kindness to the other people at the table, whether we are eating at home, in a restaurant or in someone else’s home. We have been practicing the following good manners:

1. Sit while you eat.
2. Keep your food on your plate.
3. Chew your food properly and eat with your mouth closed.
4. Use your knife, fork and spoon at all times.
5. Keep your table tidy.
6. Keep your feet to yourself.
7. Ask for help if needed.
8. Ask to be excused if you want to leave.
9. Remember to use magic words – Please, Thank you, Excuse me.



Meanwhile, we have been trying to avoid anything listed below:

1. Don’t talk with your mouth full.
2. Don’t use your fingers to eat.
3. No tipping or spilling.
4. Don’t make a mess.
5. No toys at the table.
6. Don’t kick under the table.
7. Don’t throw food.

Character Education – Responsibility

Through books, videos and songs, our little ones understand that responsibility is important, it is for us to know what we need to do and stick to it. We are to take ownership of our decisions and actions. As such, we should make good choices in order for good things to happen!

Language Learning

In December, our children learned about all the dos and don’ts with regard to Table Manners in English, Chinese, and Spanish. We were delighted to find out magic words work across languages! Please/请-Qing/Por favor, Thank You/谢谢-Xie Xie/Gracias!, and Excuse me/对不起-Dui Bu Qi/Perdón!



Cultural/Science Studies:

In terms of cultural studies, Grandma provided our children with a series of presentations on the following topics:

- Christmas tree (it was originally from Germany!)
- Christmas (Nativity story)
- Santa Claus



Moreover, through watching four episodes of “Life aboard the ISS (International Space Station)”, our little ones were fascinated about the launch of SpaceX, the way astronauts move and eat in space (there is no gravity there!), and the almost magic like experiments they conduct! We will continue to explore life at the ISS in the coming new year. Just in case you are interested to watch it too, here is the link:

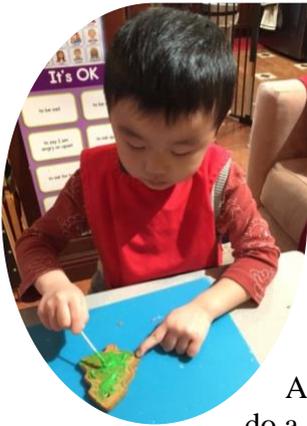
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=017JWmru9fk>



Highlights of the Month:

Life aboard the ISS

Our children enjoyed watching those videos tremendously. It was heartening to hear their giggles and wows now and then during the presentation. I would not be surprised that one day one of our little ones becomes an astronaut inspired by this early learning experience!



Christmas Arts & Crafts

In December, our children had so much fun with various art projects listed as below:

1. Making stockings & earmuffs
2. Designing a Christmas tree
3. Creating their own picture with Santa Claus
4. Assembling a reindeer
5. Decorating orbs and stars
6. Decorating figures made from gingerbread



All these projects are not only fun to carry out, but they also do a great deal of good for our little ones in that they can:

1. Strengthen their fine motor skills
2. Develop their focus and concentration
3. Establish a sense of order and sequence
4. Help them understand the cultural elements surrounding Christmas
5. Fostering creativity and independence

It is always gratifying to see a child tugging the corner of my jacket, exclaiming with pride, “Ms. Sierra, look what I’ve made!”





Christmas Performance

We are so proud of our children who carried out their very first performance with a virtual audience on Friday December

18th. It was something new for our little ones as they saw moms and dads on the screen yet there were no hugs or kisses! ☺ They presented a great performance despite all the distractions. It is a wonderful and rewarding learning experience, and we had tons of fun along the way preparing for the show. It is the process that matters! Well done children! ☺



What We Are Up to in January 2021:

“Months, Seasons & Year” is our theme, in which we will explore:

- the solar and lunar calendars
- the passage of time
- day and night
- the 12 months and the four seasons in a year
- the timeline of a person’s life



Character Education- Honesty

Honesty is the quality of being honest and adhering to the facts. Our little ones should be taught by example that we ought to be sincere, trustworthy, and reliable. We should not tell lies or twist any facts.

Montessori

Teaching of the Child

Knowledge of a special technique is necessary. The educator must, to the greatest possible extent, limit his intervention; yet he must not allow the child to weary himself in an undue effort of auto-education.

--Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method, p. 171

Montessori Quotes & Manifestations



A child is by his nature an avid explorer of his surroundings because he has not yet had the times or means of knowing them precisely.

Maria Montessori, The Discovery of the Child, p.102





Announcements/Reminders

1. Wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Happy New Year!



2. January 2021 tuition is due by **Tuesday January 5th**. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. An invoice will be sent to you soon.

3. A kind reminder that please continue to exercise precautions so as to prevent the virus, especially during the holiday season.

4. We have been looking for a quality early childhood educator to join our team, starting



with a part-time position. If you see some unfamiliar faces in our pictures, they are the candidates that we have been interviewing. We will inform you of the hiring once a final decision is made. If our families know of someone who might fit out bill (for more details, please refer to our job posting published on our website: <https://www.gardenofjoymontessori.org/copy-of-staff>), please send them our way.

