

# PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

## Message from the Director Mrs. Shabana Syed

Last month went by really fast! We focused on zoo animals. We learned about different animals' habitats, what they eat, compared their size, and went to the Los Angeles Zoo to explore and see different animals. This theme is the favorite of all children.

We had amazing guest speakers come by to teach our children different skills. **Alia Ahmad, Speech Therapist** showed our children how to articulate the words by using their tongue movements.

Children's favorite- Fire truck! What an exciting day it was for the kids. **Captain Torres** and two other firefighters from our local station **#145** visited our preschool.

Children learned about the fire fighters job, got to see their equipment, and some of the children tried on the fire fighter heavy jacket. They learned to call 911 in case of an emergency and to stop, drop, and roll when there is a fire. And not to be afraid to go up to the firefighters in case of an emergency. All the children explored and enjoyed using the water hose to put out fires. This is by far the most enjoyable hands on presentation.

It is the citrus season! What better way to use all the lemons, oranges, tangerines, and pomellas. Children made **fresh squeezed orange juice** and enjoyed it. Children learned to use their five senses (touch, hear, taste, feel and sight). They compared the size, color, texture, and flavors of different citrus fruits. We also compared the size and shape of the different leaves.

### Benefits of this activity:

- Improvement of fine motor skills
- Develop muscles used in pincer grasps
- Peel, zest, squeeze, pulp, juice, seeds
- Helping eye-hand coordination
- Vocabulary learned:

Finally we wrapped our month by decorating cookies.

### Important Dates to Remember

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | • February 7th: Mini Spa Day (Amnah Ahmed)      | 4 | • February 21st: Field Trip (Western University Dental Health) |
| 2 | • February 12-15: Parent Teacher Conferences    | 5 | • February 27th: Friendship Fruit Salad                        |
| 3 | • February 13th: Making Guacamole (Lia Jakvani) | 6 | • February 29th: Field Trip (Local Farm)                       |

NO SCHOOL February 19th, 2024: Presidents' Day



My friends' daughter recently attended the parent/teacher conference for her 3-year-old son. Prior to the meeting, she questioned the importance of attending a conference for a child so young. What would the teachers possibly have to say about my son, she asked? After attending the conference, she had an answer: a lot!

At Little Angels Preschools, parent/teacher conferences are held once a year. Parents have the opportunity to speak directly with their child's teachers about the child's school experience. Whether your child is three-years-old and just starting school, or five-years-old and heading to kindergarten next year (or beyond), there is important information to be learned at every level. Here are some of the many topics you can expect to (or ask to) hear about at your child's conference:

### **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SKILLS:**

A child's ability to interact with his/her peers and teachers is a skill that spills over into all aspects of learning and growth. Children learn how to ask for (and obtain) what they need or want, initiate play, and navigate through daily routines. Self-confidence, taking on different roles in play, and regulating emotions when frustrated are also part of this skill area. You might learn whether your child has a friend that he/she gravitates towards. Teachers can give you suggestions as to who might be a good play date choice for your child as well. Play dates are a wonderful way for children to build friendships with their peers; it creates a "bridge" between school and home, and likely will lead to interactions within the classroom.

### **COGNITIVE SKILLS:**

Your child's teachers, particularly in the 3s, Pre-K, classrooms, will speak about his/her emergent literacy, writing, and math skills (i.e. an interest in sorting items, ability to write his/her name, counting with correspondence). A child's skills are measured in two ways: (1) against standard milestones and (2) in relation to his/her abilities from when he/she first entered the classroom. Teachers (and parents) want to see growth from point A to point B; if a child enters the classroom in September and does not recognize his/her name in print, but is able to in November, that is something to be proud of!

### **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:**

A child's ability to follow directions, listen to and retell stories, read aloud, remember past events, and make connections between school and home are all part of your child's language development.

## AREAS OF STRENGTH/INTEREST:

Is your child a master at puzzles? Does he/she have an innate ability to cheer up their friends when they are upset? You will learn all about your child's strengths and interests at this time as well. Teachers can suggest ways to build upon these interests and strengths outside of school (i.e. a child who shows an interest in science might enjoy attending an after school science program).

## GROUP ACTIVITY INTERACTIONS:

You might hear about your child's interest level with regard to small and large group activities. Does your child enjoy whole group story time, or does he/she prefer working one-on-one or in a small group at Table Time? Attention span and ability to work independently are also observed and relayed during conferences.

## GOALS:

This may be the most important point of all to be learned at your conference. Teachers create a set of goals for your child to strive to achieve throughout the year. It might be to increase his/her gross motor skills, or to offer information more frequently at circle time. Goals are individualized to the needs of each child; the attainment of those goals are assessed throughout the school year. Conferences are a wonderful time to meet with your child's teacher. The teacher has valuable insights regarding your child's experiences at school and can give you a more complete picture of his/her day. Don't be afraid to take notes, ask questions, and if need be, follow-up for a future meeting or check-in via email or telephone call. Parents know their children best; your input, concerns, and interest in your child's preschool experience is valued and appreciated by his/her teachers.



# Speech Language Pathologist

## Alia Ahmad M.S. CF-SLP



# Fire Truck Visit

## Captain Torres and Firefighters



# Field Trip Los Angeles Zoo

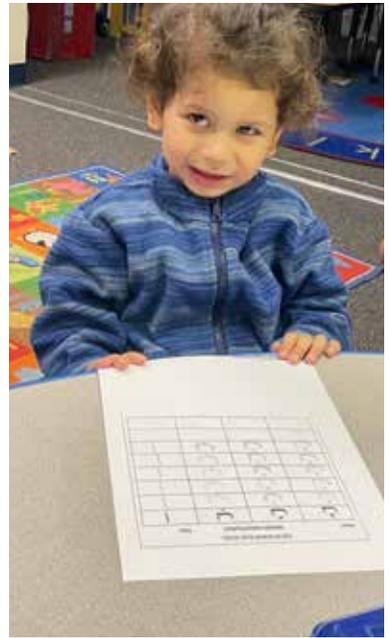
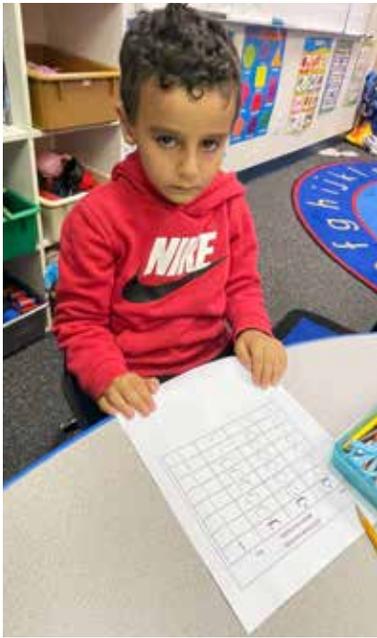


# Citrus Fruits Freshly squeezed Orange Juice

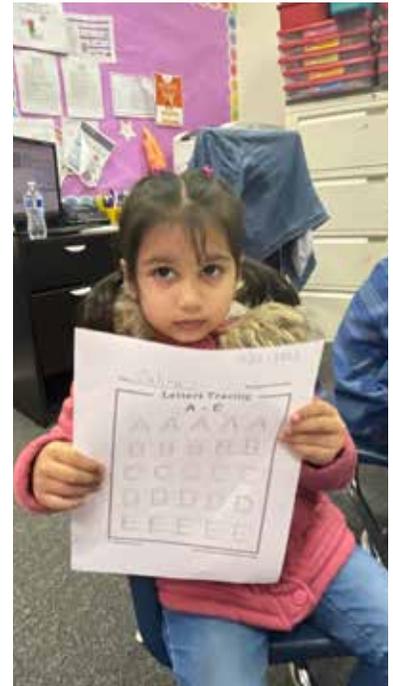
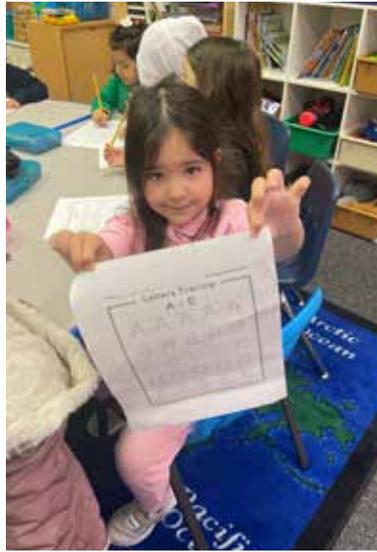
## Hands on Activity



# Practicing Arabic Letters



# Mastering ABC letters



# Strengthening Fine Motor Skill

## Letter M



# Practicing Salah



# Painting Fire Truck



# Outdoor Play Time



# Animal Activities

Painting animal masks, brown bear art, and paper ball sheep



# Little Chefs Decorating Cookies



# At Home Activities

## Learning At Home Activities: Bathtub Animals

Have your child fill the bathtub with their favorite stuffed animals and toys. Supervise them as they let their imagination run free! Are they on a boat in the middle of the ocean? In a spaceship heading to Mars? Encourage them to think outside the box!



**Estimated Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:**

Your child's favorite stuffed animals and toys

**Subject:** Imagination

## Breakfast Kabobs

### Ingredients

- Assorted fruit slices
- mini waffles or mini pancakes
- powdered sugar, if desired



### Directions

Add waffles or pancakes on a skewer, alternate skewer with cut fruit. Before serving sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired.