

BLOSSOM NURSERY NEWS



Blossom Nursery
Umm Al Sheif

**“WE ARE COMMITTED TO
PROVIDING A LEARNING SPACE
THAT IS BOTH SECURE AND
STIMULATING”**

BLOSSOM MANAGEMENT TEAM.



Blossom Village Nursery
Umm Suqeim 1

MYSELF & ME ISSUE

23RD SEPTEMBER 2010

Once again a warm welcome to all our families.

We have all been very busy settling into the Blossom environments adapting to our classmates & classroom routines helped by this first terms EYFS theme of 'Myself & Me'. The children shall be working through learning initiatives including family portraits, discussing where in the world we are from / my flag, foreign foods & more.

Drumming sessions, Languages and waterplay have all recommenced – please see your classroom schedule in your Smartbook for your child's daily routine. We are also pleased to be able to share the new 2010/11 Blossom calendar which shall be sent home this week, which notes the Blossom important dates and celebrations. We are hosting a talk on the Skygarden curriculum at Blossom Village next Wednesday at 5pm - we encourage all parents to come out and hear how our learning intentions work.

There is an exciting year ahead, hopefully started on a "sweet taste" with our Blossom Eid chocolates shared with all families. My box is a new pencil case – use yours in a creative way to teach "reusing" things and making our earth better.

Our recycling initiative will start next week, so watch parent doors for specific art & craft recyclables requested like old wrapping paper, card, toilet rolls etc that classrooms will make into new creations. Have a wonderful week!

Kind regards,

Charlotte Gast

Blossom Managing Director
charlotte@theblossomnursery.com



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JENNIFER NASER – BLOSSOM VILLAGE DIRECTOR

I would like to have the pleasure of introducing myself, my name is Jennifer Naser and I am the new Centre Director for Blossom Village. I was born and raised in Decatur, Illinois USA where I graduated High School and then went on to attend Illinois State University. A year later, my family moved to Tampa, Florida so my sister could pursue a professional tennis career. I lived in Florida for almost ten years, and earned a degree in Liberal Studies, with concentrations in Elementary Education, English and Sociology. While attending school, I had the opportunity to volunteer for Brookshire Elementary School as part of the Junior Achievement program and also for a school designed to help pregnant teenagers finish high school while learning to be new moms. Shortly after September 9/11 happened my life took a huge turn and I moved to Kuwait with my husband, where I lived for more than eight years. During these years, I had two beautiful children Jude (7 years old) and Saleh (4 ½ years old) and was fortunate to obtain my first teaching position as Kindergarten teacher at the American school of Kuwait. I taught Kindergarten for four years and was also the Head of the Extended Day program during that time. Following that, I became Academic Supervisor for SuperKids Nursery in Kuwait for two years before purchasing my own nursery in February of this year, which oddly enough I had named Blossom as well. In April, my husband got a new job in Dubai and sadly we decided to sell the nursery so our family could stay together. However, I am happy to say that it was the right decision and by chance I found Blossom Village. I believe I am destined to be in the field of education and I am looking forward to working together to provide the best Blossom experience for your children.



Jennifer Naser

Jennifer Naser
education@theblossomnursery.com

ALIA MAMDANI – BLOSSOM DIRECTOR



Alia Mamdani

Man is made great, not only by the achievements and successes they have in their lives, but by the love and care they share with those around them. I bring with me that same spirit of nurturing and prosperity. Parents, my name is Alia Mamdani and am proud to introduce myself as the newly appointed Center Director of Blossom Nursery. I completed my formal education in Kenya, a country that needs no introduction as it is very often, the spot for people eager to witness the "Great Migration." A great deal of my professional life was spent in Canada at Elite Montessori School in Toronto in teaching & management positions after which, 3 years ago, I ventured beyond the Dunes to make Dubai my home. After working at Raffles International school Dubai for two years, I am enthusiastic to embark on this new era that is dawning my career. I would like to reassure you of my commitment and dedication to your precious possessions, Our Blossom Children and look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Alia Mamdani
director@theblossomnursery.com



PRESCHOOL MADSCIENCE PROGRAM

As part of the afternoon Skillplay program for our Preschoolers (children 2 ¾ years upwards) we are looking to offer a Madscience program this term.

Mad Science Preschool Programs are engaging hands-on learning experiences for preschool children aged 3-5. Each workshop is an interactive, age-appropriate exploration of a specific science topic. From air, our animal friends and butterflies to water, weather and worms, each themed program is designed to captivate the curious nature of young children. Preschoolers enjoy engaging demonstrations, perform simple experiments and will discover how science can help us better understand the world around us!

Days: Every Monday at Blossom Nursery.
Timings: 330pm – 4pm.
Fees: AED 256/- for 8 week period/child payable directly to MadScience.

Please complete the enrolment form on the final page of the newsletter or contact your nursery Registrar for more details.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 29th Sept: Skygarden Curriculum Talk @ Blossom Village
- 11th – 13th Oct : Blossom Sports Week
- 31st Oct : Halloween / Fall Festival @ Blossom Village
- 14th – 18th Nov : Academic Half Term
- 16th – 17th Nov : Eid Al Adha*
- 25th Nov : Report Cards
- 29th – 30th Nov : Parent / Teacher Day

*Islamic holidays to be confirmed
All events are noted in the nursery calendar.

PREPARATION FOR OUTSIDE PLAY

As the weather starts to cool and we begin to enjoy our outside areas more and more we would like to remind parents to bring in the following items for water play or outside play;

- 🌀 Swimsuit
- 🌀 Towel
- 🌀 Sun lotion
- 🌀 Hat
- 🌀 Water bottle

Please ensure all the items are clearly labelled so we are able to store and return items appropriately. All items (except water bottle) will be kept at nursery in your child's box and sent home if soiled or dirty only.

EYFS: BASELINE ASSESSMENTS & CURRICULUM TALK

Baseline assessments are EYFS standardised tests or observational procedures designed to establish the attainment level of children at significant points. This week we have shared in the Smartbook a current baseline assessment of your child to mark the beginning of a year of growth and milestones for our children. The intention of these tests is to indicate individual ability of the children so we may focus on areas of weakness and ensure overall improvement as the children work through our themes and learning goals going forward.

Along with the framework of the British curriculum we utilise the Blossom SkyGarden approach which allows for open ended learning through our five senses enabling a fun hands on learning base for the children. We will be hosting a talk at Blossom Village for all Blossom families regarding the curriculum and framework entitled 'Skygarden Blossom Curriculum / EYFS Framework' on Wednesday 29th September at 5pm. Please RSVP to either office.

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LEARNING WITH YOUR UNDER FIVES

As parents you play a key role in reconfirming your child's achievements as they look to Mum & Dad to reconfirm new words, objects, behaviour etc. It is important to encourage your child to try and experiment with the new skills while positively reinforcing the fun.

Talking and listening to your child

The quickest development of your child's brain takes place between their birth and the age of two. Your child continues to learn and develop rapidly during the important early years of their life.

By building a few simple learning games into your child's daily routines and helping them investigate their environment, you can help give them the best possible start to their education.

You help your child to learn by giving them opportunities to:

- look at interesting things, in the garden or in the home
- touch a variety of objects
- listen to a range of sounds like songs, rhymes, stories, music
- taste a range of flavours
- investigate things that open, close, float, sink, twist, turn
- explore objects like large boxes, things that make noises and things that move
- play for uninterrupted periods, alone or with others, with help from adults, and in their own way
- talk to other children and adults

Reading together

Everywhere you go with your child you have a chance to read together. Whether it's in shops or at the post office, you can point out the words around you and that's the beginning of reading. Reading stories with your child, even if for just 10 minutes a day, will help to build important skills, as well as capture your child's interest in books.



For more information please see

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Preschooldevelopmentandlearning/HelpingYourChildToLearn/DG_4016074

LEARNING WITH YOUR UNDER FIVES CONT

Spending quality time together

Turning off the television or computer and spending time with your child creates valuable opportunities for learning. Here are a few ideas about activities that your child can learn from:

- pottering around the garden together teaches children about plant life, insects and animals
- simple kitchen tasks, like letting your child spread the jam on sandwiches, can give an early lesson in cooking and improve motor skills
- playing games together teaches fair play and cooperative behaviour
- family and holiday photos can give lessons in family history and geography

Learning about numbers and shapes

Counting things and noticing shapes come naturally to children, so you can use your child's interest in these activities to help with maths. Math skills can be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. Even helping in everyday tasks like telling time or measuring ingredients for cooking, gives children the chance to learn new math skills.

If you DREAM IT,
you can DO IT.

- Walt Disney

BLOSSOM LANGUAGES

After the success of our French program over the last academic year we have challenged ourselves with the task of delivering another language to our children. This year we are introducing the children to Arabic & French following the framework established last year by Ms Nadege the children shall be following a language curriculum in line with our academic learning.

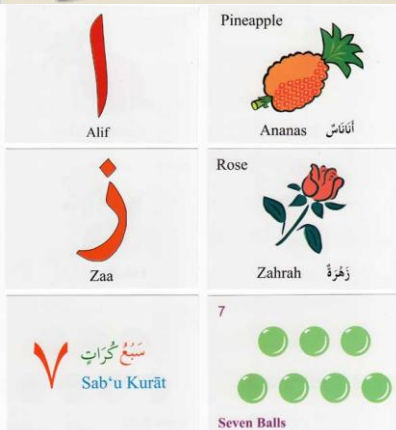
Throughout the Babies classes we shall be singing nursery rhymes and reading short stories.

In the Toddlers area we continue with the music theme, working with nursery rhymes and native songs for the children. However we will introduce individual words in French / Arabic in topics including; numbers, colours, shapes, etc through activities such as art & craft.

In the Preschool area our class sessions are smaller in numbers (6 – 8 children) enabling the lessons to include role play, games, art & craft and cookery class.

All sessions are chosen and delivered to be hands on fun learning for the children to encourage the knowledge retention and reuse.

Any queries regarding your child's language classes please e-mail: specialist@theblossomnursery.com



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BLOSSOM VILLAGE PROGRESS

We have opened Blossom Village with 4 of our 11 classrooms in use by our children, and our language and skillplay program in full stride. Following the success of our first OPEN HOUSE held this week, we shall be taking enrolments to open additional classrooms in both Toddlers & Preschool sections. Some pictures are attached here of the new centre.

Should you have friends or families who are still interested in a Blossom nursery placement please encourage either completion of the online registration form on www.theblossomnursery.com or alternatively contact the office on 04 394 8837.



Madscience Enrolment Form:

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Please enroll my children for the Winter term's Madscience program scheduled every Monday at 330pm – 4pm, please find attached my payment of Dhs 256 in CASH / CHEQUE (circle payment mode).

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Name in Print: _____