

TLC Nursery @ Nishmas
NEWSLETTER – 29th January 2015
Parshas Beshalach

*"EVERY CHILD IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FLOWER AND ALL TOGETHER MAKE
THIS WORLD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN"*

Dear Mums and Dads,

On Monday we were delighted to welcome our latest member of staff, Nicole St Hill. She has quickly become part of the TLC family and the children are so happy to see her each morning!

This week in the nursery we taught the children about Tu B'Shevat. We explained that Tu B'Shevat is the birthday of the trees and that on Tu B'Shevat the trees that were asleep (dormant) during the winter start to wake up because spring is coming. We also told them that on Tu B'Shevat we try and eat 15 types of different fruit. It is even better if we can eat some fruits from the shivas haminim (7 species) such as olives, dates, figs and pomegranates.

Monday: We began our Tu B'Shevat discussions by explaining about the weather conditions that affect the growth of certain fruits and how certain countries in the world are much hotter than others so certain fruits grow well there. We involved all children by asking them what is their favourite fruit and why. This little group discussion gave all the children an opportunity to rehearse their communication and language skills and also to develop more confidence in talking openly within the group. Encouragement was continually given to the children to help them expand their vocabulary and to make simple connections eg: so your favourite fruit is a banana. What colour are bananas? Are they hard or soft to eat? What must you do before you eat a banana? What animal loves bananas? Of course this group discussion also provides them with more knowledge of understanding the world.

The children also learnt about this week's sedra, Beshalach. Bnei Yisroel left Egypt with the Egyptians hot on their tails! As they cross the Red Sea, Miriam and the women begin to sing and dance celebrating their new-found freedom. Miriam, the sister of Moshe, led the women singing and dancing after crossing the Red Sea. The children therefore made tambourines today using paper plates, dried pasta and decorating them using paints. What creative designers you all have! Well done children!

Tuesday: Today was a special day at nursery as we celebrated a birthday. Happy 2nd Birthday little Jake Z! Hope you had an amazing day! All our love from all your friends at TLC X

We got planting today as it is nearly Tu B'Shevat. The children are all green fingered and learnt how to plant a seed. The children had their own little plastic cups which they filled with soil, buried their seed into the soil and then topped with more soil before sprinkling with water. The children are very excited to check the seedlings daily to see how they grow and develop day by day. A brilliant opportunity which challenged:

- their hand-eye coordination (placing soil into a cup using a trowel, sprinkling water into a cup using a watering can)
- fine motor skills (taking one runner bean seed out of the bag and burying it into soil, sprinkling extra soil to cover seed).

This task helps build on their pincer grip which in turn improves their fine motor skills which will help them learn how to hold a pencil correctly when mark making and writing.

In French today Monsieur Leon taught the children "on top" (EN HAUT) and "behind" (DERRIERE). This was done through fun activities such as hands behind heads, on top of heads...lots of giggling going on during this activity! Through dancing and French singing Monsieur Leon asked all the girls to hold hands and form a circle and all boys to hold hands and form a circle. The girls were then taught and had to curtsy and the boys to bow. Lots of physical activity going on today during French and so much fun and laughter! (LES ENFANTS VOUS ETES DES PETITS SUPERSTARS!) (children you are little superstars!)

Wednesday: Today in our maths lesson we laid out different coloured wooden blocks on a table. One by one we asked each child to collect a certain amount of blocks in a specific colour. We used different numbers depending on their mathematical stage of development. For example we asked a child "can you please collect SIX YELLOW blocks". A simple task like this encourages them to learn good listening, solving, focusing and concentration skills. As each child completed the task we encouraged all children to clap and shout "WELL DONE (child's name)!" This makes each child feel special, individual and to feel proud and good about themselves for completing the task whether or not some adult support was needed. WELL DONE CHILDREN! You should all be so very proud of yourselves!

As an indoor physical activity we attached all our tunnels together which made a long one. In turn we asked each child to make their way through it and as they were going through it as fast as they could, we all had to count out loud the seconds it took each child to come out the other end. A thoroughly enjoyable activity that enhances not only their physical and gross motor skills development, but their numerical counting as well.

Thursday: We recited our daily phonics song which we must say, some of the children are now beginning to sing from memory. Letters and sounds aim to build children's speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending. Phonics is the key way of preparing children to learn to read and write. A short example of our song is as follows:

"apple apple AH AH AH...baby baby BEH BEH BEH...cat cat KEH KEH KEH.

We introduced some geography today to the children and sparked their interest and curiosity about a foreign land. As Steph has just come back from Spain we spoke about it. We showed the children our map of the world. We showed them England and Spain on the map and we explained that Steph had to get on an aeroplane to reach Spain. Steph brought back a few maracas and we explained that most countries have traditions and things that they are known for. The children all enjoyed having a shake with the maracas! They also loved hearing about Steph's granddad growing all sorts of different fruit and vegetables in his own back yard! Geography helps children to gain a greater understanding of the ways of life and cultures of people in other places. This was a brilliant opportunity and topic to introduce and expand on the children's "knowledge and understanding of the world" - GRACIAS SENORITA STEPH!

Friday: Shabbos Mummy and Daddy today will be Elai and Emilie.



We have been singing a daily Tu B'shevat song which gives the opportunity for all children to choose a fruit to sing about and pretend to hold in their hands.....

Here is an (apple)

Cut it in two

One for me

And one for you

Sharing is something that we all must do

(clap, clap, clap)

Book of the Week: Jack and the Beanstalk (Stephen Tucker) (linking to Tu B'Shevat)

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you that our new children at TLC are settling in so well and the older children have adapted extremely well to staff changes.

Wishing you all a good shabbos!

Tracy, Steph, Dana, Becky, Rachel and Nicole

The TLC Team