

The Week That Was...



Week 3 Term 1

Hello Parents,

Well that was Week 3 and I must say it went by pretty quickly. It probably explains why I feel so tired. The children seemed to manage much better than I did !! We had Michelle join us on Tuesday and we had Daan join us today. Welcome to both of them and their families. I'm sure they'll enjoy their time in Yenzi and the children their time at school as well. The rest of the Early Years children did their very best to make Michelle and Daan feel welcome. All credit to Ady, who despite the fact that she had absolutely no idea what Daan was saying to her, did her utmost to play with him. She nodded when he nodded and she shook her head when he did. All good signs of an effective communicator and Ady was intent on communicating with him! Well done Ady.

Our Personal Learning Goal this week was Co-operation and we had a number of PE activities dedicated to that end. We played a variety of games using the parachute. These only work when we all work together. Use the included photos to ask your child if they can tell you about some of the games. Use key words like 'waves,' 'fishing,' 'running underneath' and 'ball' to prompt them to tell you about it. We also played the game 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?' A terribly exciting game. Mr. Wolf was looking to catch some snacks for breakfast lunch and dinner. The children would creep behind him as he walked and constantly ask him what the time was. Mr. Wolf would keep turning and telling them the time. The children were always safe until he called 'Dinner Time.' He would then chase them and try to catch one or more. The children could find refuge in their house. They just had to get back there! If the wolf was a girl, I had the children address her as Mrs. Wolf. Some remembered to use her name properly. Others were more concerned about keeping a safe distance and so avoid being caught.

Back in the classroom, co-operation was still a focus in almost every other activity, whether that was the children putting away their chairs, sharing the materials, tidying up or simply playing alongside each other and sharing the space. I say 'simply'...

Next week we'll continue with this goal...it is one that needs constant attention but there was good progress made this week. Also noteworthy was when Xander got whacked in the nose during a 'Witch Hunt' in the Play Corner and the children around him stopped their playing and asked if he was ok. Seeger was the first to ask and considering he was the one who dealt the blow I let him know how good that was that he realised what he'd done and had acted accordingly. Zainab, who was the other side of the room, doing something completely different, heard Xander's distress call and was quick to drop everything and barge her way through the manic crowd to see if the witch from the east or was the west was ok. I told them that Xander probably felt better for them asking. Through his tears I think I saw Xander nod a little, although a whack on the nose doesn't tickle, so I had to do a few magic spells to get him to laugh again. They seemed to work and I made a quick exit before the hordes there realised that I may also be a witch or worse.

The children continued with the Unit Friends and Family. (Although maybe after the Witch Hunt it should be Fiends and Family). This week they were introduced to two more poems. They used these poems to make a book. Many have finished, the rest will next week. In one poem, Dad is taking a bath and in the other a little sister is covered in yuck. I'll include these in the newsletter and perhaps you can read a little of it and see how much your child can remember of it. Even if they provide the last word in every second line, they are doing well. The learning of poems and such plays an

important role in the learning to read process. It develops their auditory skills, their memories, their ability to differentiate between sounds. It highlights the rhythm of language, develops vocabulary, encourages them to predict what's coming next and much more! It also shows how enjoyable some poems can be!

We continued to practise our counting. We counted the children in the classroom and that number increased as the week progressed. We counted everyday objects up to ten and we practised counting backwards from ten. I always encourage lots of practical counting, not just reciting numbers. Having your child count the things around them that are relevant to them will help develop this skill. The cars at the club, how many baguettes, croissants you buy, how many fish their Mum or Dad caught during the weekend, the list is endless. It's not supposed to drive you mad, but if you can continue to develop these skills in their daily routines it can only help them. They don't need to write numbers yet, they don't need to do addition or subtraction sums, but learning to understand the concepts of 'more than' and 'less than' in everyday situations are valuable activities. Many of our songs include simple counting.

We added to the song repertoire this week with songs about a child crying all alone and feeling better when he/she realised there were friends to dance with. Another song had the children perform a rather challenging dance while they sang a song asking if anyone knew the Muffin Man, the Ice-Cream Man, the Sweeties Man and whoever else they could think of. Of course they wanted to sing about the Pooh-Pooh Man, but I told them he was on holidays...for a long time. So then it was the Bum-Bum Man. He too was away indefinitely.

Early next week the new teacher Karen will arrive. I mentioned this to the children today. They just looked at me. Perhaps you too could mention it to them. I don't intend to just walk out of the classroom, there will be a transition of course, but it is her class and I was just 'minding' them...and we all had some fun and the children learnt things while I did it. I think the children have settled in well and will take the next change in their stride.

Poems:

Water Everywhere

There's water on the ceiling and water on the wall.

There's water in the bedroom and water in the hall.

There's water in the passage way and water on the stair.

Whenever Daddy takes a bath, there's water everywhere!

YUCK !!

Jam all over her fingers

Pastry in her hair

Fruit juice dribbling down her chin

And custard everywhere.

Playdough under her fingernails

Mud between her toes,

And something much much nastier

Running from her nose.

But none of this would bother me

If it weren't for this:

My sister's heading this way fast-

And it's me she wants to kiss!



My Family

Zainah

This is my Mom

4

5

3

This is me!

This is my baby brother

2

This is my Dad

My Family

There are 4 people in my family.

Xander

4

This is me!

This is my sister

1

2

This is my Dad. He has a job and a truck!

3

This is my Mom. She's in a cage!



A seemingly endless job. Good team work though!



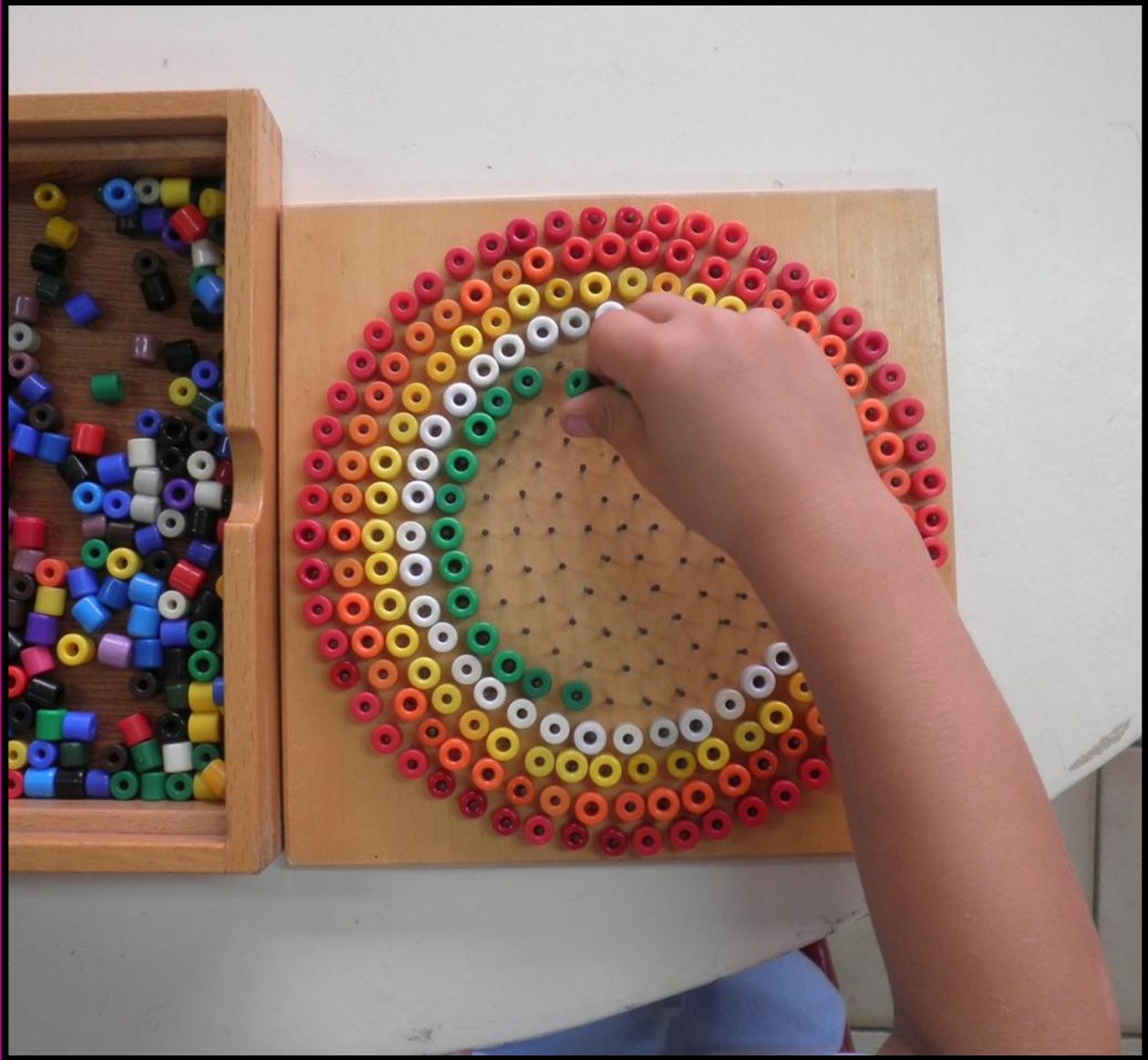


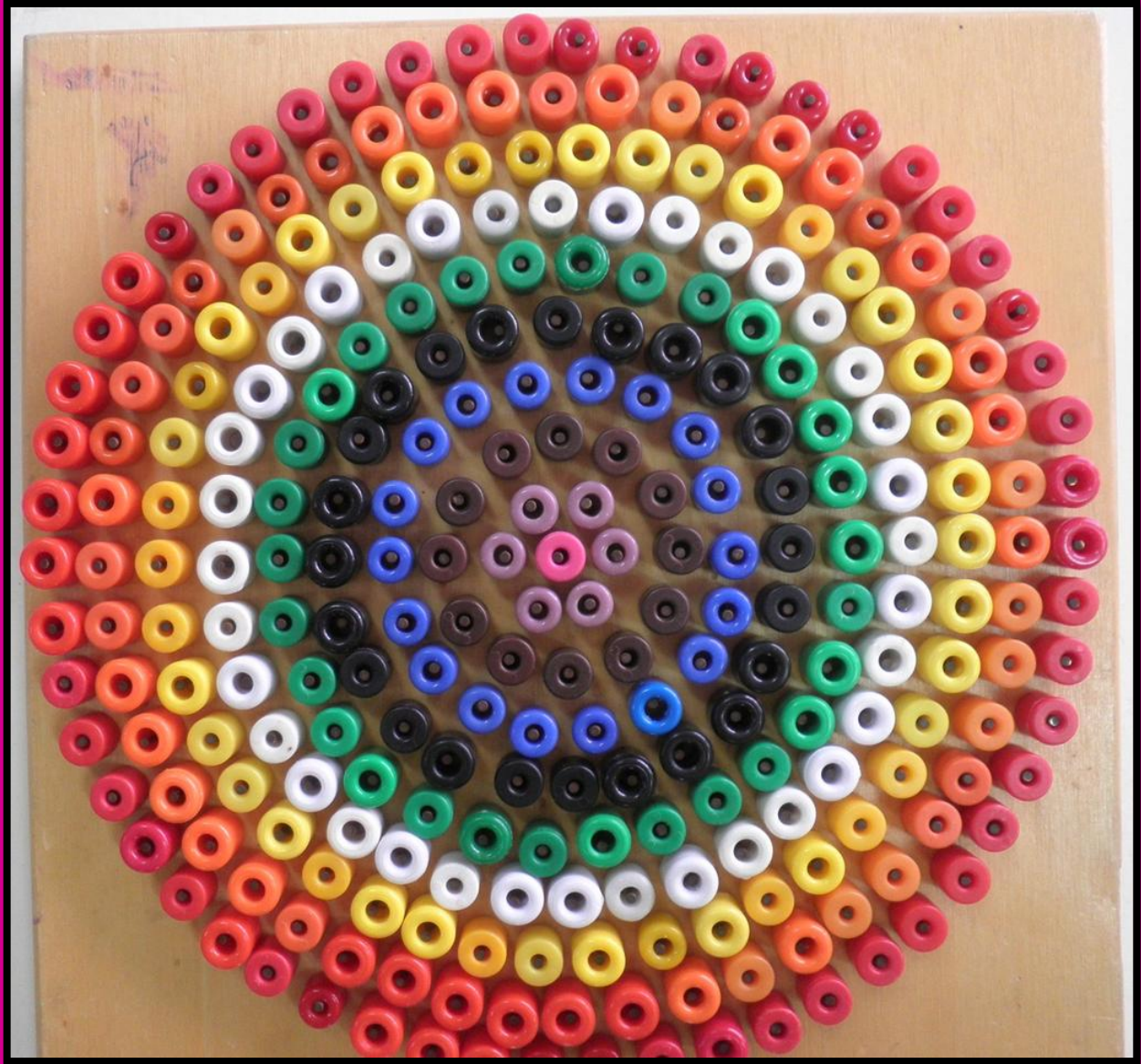
Some of the things on the Discovery Bench. Not all of them are smelly. All are interesting though.













They found the playdough.





...and the scissors. THIS they can cut to their heart's desire. I draw the line at glue sticks and each other's clothing etc.





I just wanted one photo with them all looking at the camera...











Starting the book...always the toughest part.











Pssst Andrew: please don't tell my parents I know how to tidy up !!!!







Getting the ball to roll in a controlled fashion around the parachute and not fall off was a major challenge...



Mrs Wolf and a bunch of 'brave' children.



Breakfast and lunch for Mrs. Wolf



The diamond ring that amongst other things can be used to ward off witches. Ady used it desperately in the Play Corner this week.



Which way is west? The manic crowd has lost all sense of decorum.



Do not underestimate this task of learning to use glue. I've seen P6 kids that still don't know how to do it properly!! One of the reasons I choose to work with younger children. Teach them young, know it forever. Hmmm.





Sharks and fishermen.



Dinner Time !!!



Photos for the front cover of their books.





















Enjoy your
weekend everyone!

Andrew