

Busy Butterflies



Ever wonder what goes on at school after you've dropped the little ones off? DIANE BAVIS, a Montessori teacher at **Woodland Montessori Academy**, in Mid-Levels, gives us a sneak peek into a day in her classroom.

I'm proud to say that I work in the wonderful Butterflies class. My students' ages range from two years and eight months to five years. At present, our classroom has 20 children, along with my co-teacher Preeti and myself.

A typical day begins with the children arriving, hanging up their bags and taking out their communication books. Then they post their names in the postbox. We start with circle time, where we talk about the calendar, take the register, count the children and talk about our day ahead. This is also a time when we demonstrate a new piece of work, which is usually theme-related.

After our circle time, the most important part of a child's day begins: the work cycle. During this time, we work with the children and show them new activities or pieces of work. Individual goals are based upon observations of each child to see if they are "ready" for the next challenging task; it's a time when we get to see where each child's interests and passions lie. During this one-on-one time, the other children in the class will be working independently or in small groups.

These activities enable the children to accomplish their most important goal: the development of their individual selves. For example, I recently observed that Elisabeth can recognise the numbers from one to 10; her next goal is to match quantities to these numbers, and I will also note down that she is ready to learn the numbers from 11 to 19.

During the work cycle, we break for playtime for 30 minutes and we have our snack. We then return to the classroom to continue with our work, unless we have a special occasion such as a birthday, a trip to the library for ICT (information technology), or a music and movement session. At the end of the three-hour session we have story time and the children then prepare to go home. Every day is a busy day!

PRACTICAL FUN FOR PRESCHOOLERS AT HOME

"There are many activities for parents to try at home. Children are naturally tactile and love anything to do with water, so whisking up bubbles in a bowl with some hand soap is a favourite. Pouring water from jug to jug helps with hand-to-eye co-ordination and is great fun, as is watering the plants. Or you could cut out pictures from magazines and use a glue stick to make a collage or play language games such as 'I Spy'. The list is extensive once you take a look around your home and allow for a little mess and lots of creativity and imagination!" - *Diane*

Woodland Montessori Academy is at G/F-3/F, On Fung Building, 110-118 Caine Road, Mid-Levels. woodlandschools.com

