

Leapfrog Newsletter

February 2011

www.leapfrogkindergarten.org

Kindergarten - Baking visit



Just before we went on our CNY holiday, Max invited his K2 classmates to his house for some baking with his Mum Emmanuelle.

The children made fantastic banana & chocolate cakes and cupcakes along with beautiful fruit sticks.

Thank you so much for inviting us, for a lovely snack and cakes that everyone was able to take home and share with their families. The children talked about the visit for the rest of the week and the Leapfrog staff enjoyed a big cake with their coffee for days afterwards!



CPR & First Aid and Children's illnesses, treatments and safety

Leapfrog is offering these two very practical courses for parents and helpers. The trainer, Sarah Walker is a Canadian trained and Registered Nurse.

Maximum ten participants per group. Handout and attendance certificate is given to each participant. All courses held at Leapfrog Kindergarten.

- **CPR & First Aid - Wed March 23rd and Wed March 30th from 7pm-9.30pm**
- **Children's illnesses, treatments and safety - Wed April 6th from 7pm-9.30pm**

CPR & First Aid, HK\$950 (2.5 +2.5 hours). Children's illnesses, treatments and safety, HK\$550 (2.5 hours). Or both, CPR & First Aid and Children's illnesses, treatments and safety, HK\$1300 (7.5 hours total).

Please email Ailish admin@leapfrogkindergarten.org if you are interested.



Playgroup

During February the playgroup has been learning about Valentine's Day, shapes, numbers and colours. The children have had great fun learning about shapes through different activities, games and craft.

Number songs are a great way to get children to understand numbers. Visit our number songs collection (www.leapfrogkindergarten.org/music.html) to keep up with the singing at home.

Kindergarten

Everyone at Kindergarten had a great Chinese New Year, and seems to have recovered from the various bouts of illness that had been plaguing us since before the holiday started. We came back to a whole week of activities based on developing our number skills.

These included everyone making their own clock and learning how to use it, specifically 'o'clocks', such as three o'clock, nine o'clock, and so on. On another day, we made collages using a number to represent a colour for each section of the design, for example putting pink pieces in the sections where there was a number 1, green pieces for number 2, etc

We have also made pictures, patterns and egg box caterpillars with number stickers and rubbing using 'textured' numbers. All this work has been supported by the introduction of some new number songs, such as 'Alice the Camel', 'The Ants go Marching One by One' and 'Ten Green Bottles'. I feel that much beneficial and exciting numeracy learning took place during this week.

Our new topic is 'Houses and Homes', and the types of home will include castles, teepee and bird houses, so it should be great fun!



Number Songs

Here at Leapfrog, we all really enjoy our daily singing sessions in both the Playgroup and the Kindergarten classes. Songs featuring numbers, positioning and shape address much of the criteria outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage, in the areas of 'Problem Solving and Numeracy' and 'Social and Emotional Development'.



Why are they so important?

The learning experience is made accessible to all children by the use of a multi-sensory approach - the sound of the tune and the words, looking at the pictures and numbers that represent each aspect of the song, and using actions which help to develop physical coordination and understanding of the lyrics. A green bottle 'falls' to the floor, for example, and a (willing) child is asked to come to the whiteboard and change the magnetic number so that it accurately represents the remaining bottles. In this way, basic numeracy skills are made much easier to learn and remember:

- inclusive musical-based circle time activities facilitate active participation, whilst encouraging co-operation and sharing amongst the children, and
- imparting a sense of belonging to a group.
- With our repetitive 'little and often' philosophy (which also applies to our phonics teaching), the children are soon able to memorize and recite the songs, which gives them a powerful sense of personal accomplishment and enhances their confidence. New songs are regularly introduced, preventing boredom, and giving a greater element of choice.
- It is important that the children know that learning is fun - although often, they don't actually realize that they ARE learning!



Which number songs do we sing?

We have started collecting the songs we use at Leapfrog on our website. Visit our collection to practise the songs with your child. The versions might be slightly different but will still serve the same purpose.

Have fun!

Leapfrog's music collection

Our music collection is a collection of You-tube videos that we have gathered together. We will gradually add to our collection as we go along. The songs or the videos do not belong to Leapfrog nor have we participated in producing them in any way. The collection simply refers to the songs that are presented in a similar way as we do here at Leapfrog.

To enjoy, visit our website or go straight to:

www.leapfrogkindergarten.org/music.html

Seasonal Spare Clothes

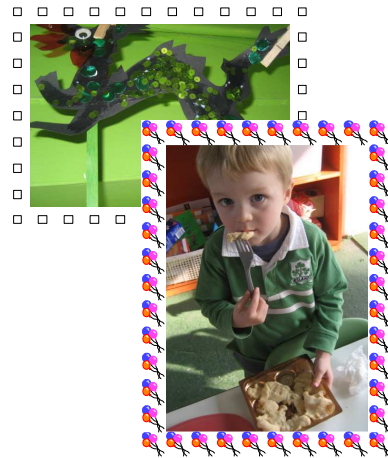
We want to remind all our parents to make sure that your children always have spare clothes in their trays or backpacks. Please make sure to update the stock you have as some of the spare ones could be more appropriate for summer.

Thanks—Leapfrog Teachers

Leapfrog Kindergarten and Playgroup

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Latest Photos



Leapfrog Kindergarten & Playgroup

Please remember to follow us on our fantastic **NEW** web site!

www.leapfrogkindergarten.org

Visit our **Newsroom** on a regular basis and don't forget to check our **Photo Site** for brand **NEW** photos of your children!