



# Butterfly News

March Review 2015

Dear Parents,

We have had a beautiful start to spring. We were enjoying the warm outdoors and were doing lots of colourful activities indoors; then winter returned.

As your children are enjoying shopping role-play so much, we decided to take this a step further and actually take them shopping. We took them to the bakers to buy Brezn. Before they left the center, they each chose a shopping bag and we gave them 1 euro to put in their bags and off we went, walking to Hopfisterei, just up the street on Einsteinstrasse. They each had the opportunity to ask for their Brezn, but most were too shy to ask, even though we had practiced at circle. They then gave their money, took their Brezn and change, and put it into their bags. When we got back to the center, they were very patient about waiting until afternoon snack to eat the Brezn and share them with their classmates. It was such a nice thing to do and we plan to do other similar trips again in the coming months.

We now have set up a shop in our Butterfly room. We have all brought in various old boxes and cartons of food. The children love to go shopping with their money in their bags and then stop off at the cafes that are set up around the room.

One morning this month we had a practice fire drill, the children went wild after it, pretending to be firemen putting out fires.

We are happy to have Mary join our Little Daisy team. She is settling in well, and the children have taken to her quickly.

We were also lucky this month to have two people doing Schnupperpraktikum with us at Little Daisies. Dora was with us for two weeks at the beginning of the month, and Tuan-Dat was with us last week. It is important to us at Little Daisies to give young people who are considering a career in childcare the opportunity to experience the reality of the job by spending a week with us. Both Dora and Tuan-Dat were a true blessing to have, and the children will miss them.

## What have we been up to?

### Themes – Spring and Colours.

#### Arts and crafts:

- As it is spring we made a snowdrop picture, by gluing a paper snowdrop stem and head onto a page, and we explained to the children that the snowdrop is the first flower of spring.
- The children painted a paper plate which we then made into a colourful bird by gluing on feathers.
- As we have been doing lots of colour activities, we gave the children cheerio cereals to sort into colours. This was even more interesting when they discovered they tasted so good. They then strung their cheerios onto a pipe cleaner to make a rainbow. They then made clouds by sticking cotton wool onto contact paper.
- As its Easter, we have been doing crafts to prepare. We decorated bunnies by painting with marshmallows, and attaching a bunny tail. We painted real eggs for our Easter breakfast, and are in the process of making Easter baskets.
- We gave the children colour shape stickers to stick onto black paper. We asked them to name the shapes and colour of the shape as they stuck them onto the paper. The variety of results was really interesting. Each child was so concentrated and definite about how and where they wanted to stick their stickers.

#### Maths and Science:

- We have been practising pouring water from jugs into cups. Now at mealtimes, instead of us serving the children their water, they can serve themselves. This is a good preparation exercise for when the children move up to kindergarten. They also love to spread cream cheese on bread and crackers.
- Your children's skills constantly develop and this month we have noticed they love doing more challenging puzzles, some with up to 30 pieces. Doing puzzles develops their concentration, hand-eye coordination and patience. We have also introduced new board games which the children love to play and they are really improving at learning the rules of each game.

#### Nature and Environment:

- As the forest was closed for a few weeks for tree cutting, we took the opportunity to go to the English gardens for a breakfast picnic and to watch the ducks and swans. On our return to the forest, the children noticed there were lots of trees cut down and lots of branches on the paths.
- We have now been to the Wienerplatz playground a few times. One morning we had a picnic there and then the most amazing thing happened...a digger drove into the playground to dig up a big tree trunk. The children sat and watched as if they were in the Kino!
- On our travels, we are trying to make the children more aware of the street signs and traffic lights. We ask them to help tell us when the light is green so we should cross the street.

### **Movement and Sport:**

- Movement and sport this month was thoroughly enjoyable as the children loved the trampoline that we made using the mats on various surfaces to balance them.
- We have two small slides that we have used in the Turnzimmer. One day the children used pillows and pretended they were on Popo-Rutscher, and sat on them as they slid down the slides.

### **Circle Time / Language:**

- We played a cd storybook that the children loved to listen to. "Driving Home from Grandpa's and "Animal Boogie" were requested most this month. We showed them the pictures in the corresponding book while they listened to the story.
- As its spring, we introduced a rainbow song, "I can sing a Rainbow". This also helps the children to recognise colours and learn the names of them.
- We have had a visitor join us a few times for circle time. His name is Flipsy and he is a caterpillar puppet. The children sing songs to him and then, if they want, they can stroke him to say bye before he goes back to the forest.
- Sometimes this month, instead of doing a role call we used a ball to roll to the children then they had to say their names to us, before rolling it on to someone else in the group. Then we tell them to roll it to the children that are not present, and the others look round for them.

### **Music Class (with Nici):**

- Nici brought spring to the Butterfly room with a beautiful flower song. The children had to curl up on the floor like a flower holding a squashed-up chiffon cloth tightly in their hands. As the spring sun arrived, the children had to open their hands really slowly and pretend the flower was opening and then they danced around in the sun, and when night came they had to curl back up again.
- She also sang a fish song that was a memory game too. She had a picture of a fish and placed it on the floor. Each child then took their turn to choose a piece of plastic food to put onto the fish as she was hungry. They then had to remember what they put in and they had to take turns again to remember which piece of food to take out.

**We hope you have enjoyed reading about our month.**

**In the month of April we will be a doing Easter breakfast and the Easter bunny may just pay us a visit☺. We also plan to go shopping with the children again. This time we will go to a fruit and vegetable shop.**

**Your Butterfly Team,  
Manuela, Moni, Maria & Martina.**