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Qatar Academy Doha

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**Ministry** 

#### **Early Education Centre Akhbar**

#### رسالة المدير

أولياء الأمور الكرام،

أتمنى أن تكونوا قد حظيتم أنتم وأطفالكم بأسبوع جيد. لقد كان من الملحوظ رؤية أعداد الطلاب الّذين يحضرون إلى المدرسة كل يوم وكم هو أمر جيد رؤيتهم وهم يتّبعون روتين الأجراءات الاحترازيّة.

ستلاحظون أن عدد حالات كورونا الإيجابية قد بدأت في الارتفاع مرةٍ أخرى في قطر مع تجاوز عدد الحالات الجديدة بالأمس - 300 حالة لأول مرة منذ أسابيع عديدة - لذا يرجى الاستمرار في توخّي الحذر الشديد بشأن إرسال أطفالكم إلى المدرسة في حال كانوا على اتصال بحالة إيجابية أو إذا ظهرت عليهم أي علامات أوأعراض.

في هذه الظروف، من الأفضل توخّي الحذر، بدلاً من المخاطرة بنقل الفيروس إلى عائلات أخرى، ذلك بالطبع، إذا لم يكن أي من طلّابنا على اتصال بأي حالةٍ إيجابية وهم بصحةٍ جيّدةٍ ، فنحن نأمل بشدة أن يأتوا إلى المدرسة شخصيًا.

لقد كان من المثير للاهتمام الاطّلاع على درا سات نشرت مؤخّرًاعن بلدان أخرى أغلقت مدارسها لعدّة أسابيع أو حتى أشهر والتي توضّح التأثير السلبي لعدم قدرة تواصل هؤلاء الأطفال اجتماعيًا . نحن نعلم أنّ الدراسة عبر الإنترنت جيدة ، لكن الأطفال قطعًا بحاجةٍ إلى التّفاعل واللّعب مع أقرانهم .نرجوا أن نتمكن من التّرحيب بجميع طلّابنا قريبًا.

لقد قمت بإرسال رسالة نصّية قصيرة إلى جميع أولياء الأمور خلال الأسبوع لإعلامكم بإغلاق الطّرق والبوابات حاليًّا في المدينة التعليمية ، وذلك لدعم التّرتيبات الخاصّة بمباريات كأس العالم للأندية، و التي ستقام على استاد المدينة التعليمية في فبراير. ستقام المباراة الأولى على ملعب المدينة التعليمية يوم الخميس 4 فبراير. سيكون يومنا المدرسي كالمعتاد تمامًا ولن يكون للمباراة أي تأثير على الدوام المدرسي ذلك اليوم.

أرجو لكم نهاية أسبوع سعيدة.

افضل الأمنيات،

ستيفن ميك

#### **Early Education Centre Akhbar**

#### **Director's Message**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your children have had a good week. Certainly, it has been noticeable just how many students we have at the school each day and it has been very good to see them happily following the new routines of temperature control and social distancing, without a second thought.

You will have noticed that the number of Covid-19 cases has begun to rise again within the country with yesterday's figure of new cases passing 300 for the first time for many weeks. Please therefore do continue to be very cautious about sending your children to school, if there has been any chance that they may have been in contact with a positive case or if they are showing any signs of being unwell. In these circumstances it is better to be cautious, rather than to run the risk of passing the virus on to other families. Of course, if your children have been nowhere near any cases and are feeling fine, then we very much hope that they will come to school in person. It has been interesting to read the studies from other countries, whose schools have been closed for many weeks or even months, just what an impact the lack of social connection is having on children who cannot go to school. To study online is fine, but children need to interact and play with children their own age. Let us hope that it will not be too long before we are able to welcome all the students back into the school each day.

I sent an SMS to all families during the week to advise everyone about the Gate and road closures which are taking place in Education City, in order to support the arrangements for the Club World Cup matches which are being played in the Education City Stadium in February. I hope that the new arrangements have not been too inconvenient for your family. The first match of the Club World Cup in the Education City Stadium will take place on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February. Our school day will be completely as normal and the match will have no impact upon our arrangements, so your children's day will not be affected.

I hope that you will enjoy a good weekend with your family.

Best wishes,

Stephen Meek

#### **Dear Parents**

### Assistant Principal Message

Welcome back to Semester Two. It's wonderful to observe over the last few weeks the leaps and bounds your children have made in their development. We are noticing how independent and capable even our youngest children are and how very motivated they are to want to do things for themselves.

In our busy lives it's important to remind our selves about giving children time to develop their self help skills and independence and that repeating the skills time and time again will build their confidence and ability to master a skill. Patience and guidance from you and from school will ensure that even the smallest task will help them feel proud of their achievements.

There are many things you can continue to do at home to help your child feel confident and build on their self help skills.

In the EEC we encourage children to become more independent.

We ask that children carry their own backpacks to and from school, that our older children walk (not carried) with parents or nannies and that they are responsible for their own belongings.

At home encourage your children to

- · practice hanging up their belongings
- put away their toys after playing
- sit while eating
- feed themselves ...it takes time!!!
- Put on own shoes and socks

#### Practice

- Handwashing
- Nose wiping
- Opening lunch containers
- Manipulating simple clothing fasteners
- Zipping a backpack
- · Cover mouth when coughing or sneezing

Teach your child how to undress at night and have them pick out their clothes for the following day. If they want to dress themselves in the morning, keep in mind that they may need some assistance.

"Never do for a child what he can do for himself. A "dependent" child is a demanding child...
Children become irresponsible only when we fail to give them opportunities to take on responsibility."

- Rudolf Treiburs & Marsairet Goldman.

To support self help skills, encourage with gentle reminders that they can do many things for themselves.

What your child wants most is to please you, and praising them will tell them what a good job they are doing. You are such an important part of your child's learning.

Remember our rule in the EEC and the wise words of Maria Montessori.



### Assistant Principal Message

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Sports Day February 8<sup>th</sup>

Due to our COVID restrictions we sadly can not have parents join us in school for sports day. This year we will celebrate Sports Day in the centres and share children's activities with you via Videos or photos.

#### Second Goal setting Meetings and Portfolio Sharing with Parents February 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

We would love to invite you into school (when there are no children present) or online to work with your classroom teachers to set a further learning goals for this Semester.

Teachers will also share your child's portfolio with you during this meeting.

We encourage you all to commit to this meeting as teachers have collected valuable assessment data about your childs progress.

Thank you parents, we know that our worlds are unsettled, and we are living in unprecedented times. Be proud of your children, they are strong and resilient and together we will celebrate the positive learning that happens every day in your homes, in school and our community.

Kindest Regards

Jo Ellis



#### Parent and Caregiver Workshop Announcement

The Learning Center and Qatar Academy Schools will be offering a workshop on the following topic:

Interventions for Common Early Years Behaviors

Date: Tuesday February 23 Time: 12:30pm

Link: meet.google.com/khk-xkfw-tgs

This workshop is for Parents, Nannies, and Caregivers

This workshop will address the questions that every parent or caregiver has:

What are normal behaviors for my child's age?

Why is my child behaving like this?

What can I do to help?

I think something may be wrong, what should I do?

How can I arrange my home for virtual learning?

#### Presenter Bio:

Shariffah Azzaam is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst from Pennsylvania, USA. She holds a Masters in Special Education and a Post Masters Certification in Applied Behavior Analysis. She has been the Behavior Specialist for Oatar Academy Schools for 5 years and has over 20 years experience working in the Education Sector. She is an international speaker who has presented both locally and Internationally at Applied Behavior Analysis International, Global Autism Conference, and EdEx Oatar. She specializes in Behavior Interventions.

# DISCUSSION SESSION





Outdoor play is not only good for children's health but also encourages creativity, social skills and resilience. Outdoor areas are where children's play can take off and thrive. Great outside play areas should be of a good size and designed in a manner so that children can express through play - where they run, hop, where they can yell, shriek and explore.

Natural environments are highly dynamic and give children the chance to learn more about their bodies and to use gross motor skills through digging, building, climbing, splashing breaking and balancing. Outside play provides children with opportunities for self-directed physical activity that can help promote physical health and well-being.

The nurses monitor the temperature, humidity and air quality (presence of dust) to ensure that it is suitable for the children to go outside. This is based on the Weather Guidelines for children.

Young children's rapid brain development is enhanced by them forming strong connections so the environment and experiences we provide for them has a crucial impact on the manner in which brains develop.

## OUTDOOR PLAY



## TOYS THAT BENEFIT CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

There are two main groups of toys: active and passive. Passive toys have one thing in common: they will only respond to the child's manipulation. With passive toys, it is the child who activates them. Active toys, on the other hand, encourage the child to be passive and to rely on the toy to entertain them.

No matter what toy your child plays with, the best way to foster their development is to be an active participant in their play. Toys that motivate your child to actively partake in play will encourage them to invent their own experience, make mistakes, have the satisfaction of success when they try again. They also allow your child to act out a life situations to make meaning out of their experiences.

When looking for toys for babies and toddlers, here are some of the things to consider in terms of safety:

- -Must be bigger than 3 cm in diameter
- -Must not have removable part
- -Check for sharp edges, breakability and anything that might cause suffocation







## The more a toy does, the less your child does.

**Passive Toys** 

Do nothing unless the child activates them



Spark child's imagination and curiosity



Encourage active learning

Require child to manipulate them to work



Teach concrete concepts problem solving





Usually require a battery or a motor



Child comes to expect to be entertained Little opportunity for active learning



Limited in functionality

Child follows the toy's rules



Do not develop any critical thinking skills

Less is more.







#### EEC Club House Self Help Skills

















