

Our World at Small World



WHAT DID WE DO THIS MONTH? STEP INTO OUR WORLD AT SMALL WORLD!

Dear Parent(s),

August brought us the end of our Inspector Gadget Summer Adventures. As you can see, Bryson L. (left) had his magnifying glass ready to go as a Detective-in-Training. Throughout our Summer Program, the students engaged in STEM-centered lessons which were “geared” towards enriching our students’ overall educational development through fun-filled activities. See Ms. Jasmine’s Class (center) programming their state-of-the-art Lego Boost kits, where they used an iPad as a guide to build and code their Lego Robots.

Additionally, we hosted our Annual Father’s Day Luncheon on June 18th which honored all of our special father-figures. See Sera V. with her father during the luncheon (right). During the Summer, the children also participated in various hands-on activities including creative expression through painting on canvases, as well as an interactive Train Ride. Keep reading to see photos of these activities and more on our Summer Highlights page.

It is our aim to provide parents with a monthly newsletter highlighting all the activities that happened during the previous month. In this month’s letter, we have also included a featured article from the American Montessori Society entitled, “Manners, Naturally” by Donohue Shortridge.

We hope you enjoy seeing all the activities your child took part in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. This newsletter is for parents, and we are open to suggestions including Article Selections. Join next time to see our First Day of School Festivities. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ms. Bonnie Lynch
Administrator of Communications and Marketing

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Summer Dates

Friday, June 18th:

Father’s Day Luncheon

Monday, July 5th:

Independence Day Observed

Friday, August 13th:

Last Day of Summer Program

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FEATURED ARTICLE— “MANNERS, NATURALLY” BY: DONOHUE SHORTRIDGE

“Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree.”

This quote, often attributed to children’s rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, came to mind recently. Walking toward my local market, I could hear the jovial banter between a father and son, who were about ten steps behind me—something about a birthday later that day and their mission to get the cake. Listening to his vocabulary and articulation, I estimated the boy to be 4 years old. Just as I reached the front door, the boy rushed past me, yanked the door open, and was halfway into the store when Dad called him back. “Let’s hold the door open for this lady, son.”

I looked at them both as I entered, said “thank you,” and then we were all off, each into our separate worlds—they to the bakery department and I to the produce section.

Dad managed the episode with grace because he didn’t react as though his child should know better; he understood that the boy’s rushing was due to 4-year-old exuberance (it would be different if the boy were 10). At the same time, the father did not let the opportunity pass to demonstrate to his son what to do.

That is the secret. We teach our children manners in the million moments we have with them. The episodes often come up without warning and can catch us off guard. What should we keep in mind so that when an opportunity presents itself to show our child what to do, we too will handle it with grace?

Our children adore us.

They love us with their entire being. Whatever we do, they want to do. They want to be close to us; they want to watch us, hear us, learn from us, and be loved by us. They want to be just like us. So instilling manners, aka “social competence,” is simple and natural in these early years, from the age of 3 or 4 on.

Now is the time.

Young children want to know—actually, crave knowing—the right thing to do. Their bodies and minds have grown beyond the toddler stage. Now that they are sturdy on their feet and language can be employed in meaningful communication, they are ready for the next phase of self-construction: socialization. They encounter the world as if asking, “What am I to do here? And would someone please show me how?”

Correcting is not the same as modeling.

Like the rest of us, children are easily shamed. If the father at the market had said, “Watch out, son, you’re in that lady’s way,” the boy would have felt judgment, rather than learning what he should have done. Thus, even if we are annoyed or embarrassed by our young child’s behavior, our exasperation is not the lesson—there is another way. Trust that the conduct is not malicious but likely stems from the child not knowing what to do. Then demonstrate what we want our child to learn. Dad didn’t need to say anything further to his 4-year-old son; the boy absorbed the lesson. And if Dad does the same thing the next time and the next, the lesson will be reinforced.

Parents are the most potent teachers of social norms. What we show our children, they will do. Even so, for our lessons to adhere, we must be consistent and positive. And most important, we must model the behavior we want to instill in our children.

As Maria Montessori said, “What is social life if not the solving of social problems, behaving properly, and pursuing aims acceptable to all?”

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SUMMER 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

