



École Des Petits Amis
French Immersion Preschool

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Amis French
Immersion
Preschool



April 2020 Preschool Newsletter

Reminders

- You're doing a GREAT job parents and kids!
- We love you and miss you!
- We will all get through this and hug so much after!
- It's okay to be sad, confused and mad that you can't do normal things!

Preschool Activities & Themes

Hi parents!

Well this has been a very different, crazy and unexpected month at preschool. We are both broken hearted that we aren't with your children but hope that our videos bring them some happiness and normalcy.

This month we will be talking about **Bugs and Spring and Easter** at preschool. We are really looking forward to turning our minds to **spring!** We will learn about flowers, trees, birds, rain and rainbows and lots of crawling & flying insects.

We will still have BUTTERFLIES coming in May!

Our calendar looks pretty different on the next page! It's full of ideas rather than show & tell names. Please send us suggestions or questions!



April Activities Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Find some funny jokes to tell your family! Knock, knock...	2 Create a cool construction paper flower	3 Can you do sidewalk chalk outside?
6 Let's plant some seeds and watch them grow!	7 Can you make a cupcake liner umbrella?	8 Make a cerf volant (kite) craft!	9 Can you make an Easter egg (coloring page, etc)?	10 How can you play with your plastic Easter eggs (water, rice, etc)?
13 Try some crayon resist art if you have white crayon and watercolour!	14 Find all the letters of the alphabet around your house	15 Can you find any French songs on YouTube?	16 Check out Tumblebooks for online French books!	17 Can you bake or cook something today?
20 Let's make circle art today with tubes and cups and paint!	21 What can you learn about the butterfly life cycle?	22 Earth day! How can you make an Earth? Crayons? paint?	23 Count all the spoons in your house in French and English!	24 What colour are you wearing today? What about mom?
27 Draw a picture today of your family.	28 Have you seen the animal videos from the Cincinnatti Zoo?	29 There's a French video of Hungry Caterpillar in! Can you make a butterfly?	30 Let's make a paper plate bumblebee!	



Announcements

We would love to hear your **feedback** both to help make us better and to add to our Testimonials page on our website. If you would like to provide some feedback, you can either email us at Jackie@ecoledespetsamis.com or you can submit a rating and/or review on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EcoleDesPetitsAmis>. We appreciate any feedback you can provide!

Registration for the 2020-21 preschool year is ongoing at Ecole Des Petits Amis. Speak to the teachers if you need more information about rates and availability for next year! Our numbers are still quite low for our two day a week classes so let's fill them up!

April Vocabulary Words

- Le printemps– Spring
- Une fleur- a flower
- La pluie – rain
- Le soleil – the sun
- Un parapluie – an umbrella
- Planter – to plant
- La Terre – Earth
- Une graine – a seed
- Un papillon – a butterfly
- Une chenille – a caterpillar
- Pâques – Easter
- Le lapin – the bunny
- Des oeufs - eggs



Fine Motor Development and your preschooler

Recent research is pointing to many kindergarten students coming to school with underdeveloped fine motor skills (<http://bit.ly/1RQ8Yc6>). This can result in challenges when children are asked to do typical kindergarten activities like coloring, cutting with scissors and writing.

We asked our Occupational Therapist, Julia Halford, what she wished all parents knew about working on fine motor skills before kindergarten. Here are her suggestions for helping your child develop in these areas!

Playdough- Squeeze, pinch, roll it. Use stencils, stamps, rolling pins, hide small items inside and have the child pull them out with their index fingers and thumbs. Have fun exploring!

Scissors- snip straws, playdough, paint sample chips or other materials while encouraging proper positioning: 2 thumbs up (thumb up holding the scissors and 'helper hand' thumb up), scissors pointing away from the body and elbows tucked in

Use fun multi-sensory activities to practice forming shapes such as drawing with their finger in sand, rice or on top of a ziploc bag filled with shaving foam and/or paint. Use string, pipe-cleaners, play dough or food such as carrot sticks and pretzels.

Don't throw away those broken crayons! You might want to even break them on purpose. Broken crayons encourage use of a functional grasp as they encourage them to pinch with their index and thumb. It's harder to use a full hand grasp (fisted or in the palm of their hand) on a small crayon! Colouring with small crayons (not jumbo ones) helps develop the small muscles in their hands

Practice independence with their shoes and jackets. Teach the last step first to promote success. For example you latch the zipper and your child pulls it up. Consider adding a material tab to pull or a key ring for easier zipping.

Practice opening and closing snack containers. Clip lock containers are easiest for little hands. Here are some other fun ways to practice motor skills through play: Pick up small items with tongs or tweezers. This can be made into a fun race!

Water play- squeeze sponges, turkey basters, eye droppers, spray bottles, squeeze/squirt toys

Ripping and scrunching paper- can be made into a craft or turned into a game of tossing in a basket once crumpled.

Try making bracelets by threading open-ended pasta, cereal loops or beads onto pipe cleaners.

Work on tummy time. This should start in infancy, but older kids can be encouraged to read or work on puzzles while lying on the floor, says occupational therapist Linda Cunningham. Many children like the novelty of it. Also, explore ways to write or paint while your child stands. This helps develop strong shoulder muscles!