



École Des Petits Amis  
French Immersion Preschool

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Amis French  
Immersion  
Preschool



## April 2023 Preschool Newsletter

### Preschool Activities & Themes

#### Reminders

Please give the preschool a call or an email if you know your child will be absent. Call 403 512 3921 or email

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Hi parents!

This month we will be talking about **Bugs and Spring** 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.

April is also a great time to talk about **Earth Day on April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** and what even the youngest of us can do to help our planet!

The preschool will be closed from **April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break.**



# April Calendar & Show & Tell

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>3</b> Brynli et Sophia</p>	<p><b>4</b> Lana et Aiden</p> <hr/> <p>Brett et Louie</p>	<p><b>5</b> Alex et Jasmine</p>	<p><b>6</b> April et Bella</p> <hr/> <p>Zoya et Sarah</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>no school</i></p>
<p><b>10</b> <i>no school</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>no school</i></p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>no school</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>no school</i></p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>no school</i></p>
<p><b>17</b> Zoe et Feylah</p>	<p><b>18</b> Levi et Liam</p> <hr/> <p>Hunter et James</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>My Garage field trip</b></p> <p><b>(No Show &amp; Tell</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>My Garage field trip</b></p> <p><b>(No Show &amp; Tell</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Alexandra et Arya</p>
<p><b>24</b> Ryan et Andie</p>	<p><b>25</b> Lucia et Magnus</p> <hr/> <p>Sofia et Maddox</p>	<p><b>26</b> Link et Ronan</p>	<p><b>27</b> Maddison et Dante</p> <hr/> <p>Mila et Maisyn</p>	<p><b>28</b> Joshy et Evangeline</p>



## *Announcements*

We will be taking a few field trips before the end of the preschool year! We will be going to **My Garage on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**. We will also visit **Superstore on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**. Finally, we will go to the park in **Stonegate on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**. You will receive a permission form prior to each trip.

Our **caterpillars will be arriving on May 1<sup>st</sup>**! We will watch them cocoon and turn into butterflies!

## 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

Une abeille – a bee



## 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 an 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!