

Shark Class Newsletter

March 2020

Chinese New Year was great and I hope that all the family enjoyed the holidays. We have been hit and miss with a full attendance in class since then but March is likely to settle down and with everyone back into daily routine we can work through the last semesters schedule. Also on the horizon is the graduation play which we will soon begin working on, inspiration for which has yet to hit home.

Reading

While some kids have been taking time off and others going home early in the day, reading tends to be a little hit and miss with some students while others remain consistent with their practice on a daily basis. So for those that have been missing out a lot on reading classes which tend to be at the end of the day (because other more intensive classes require too much concentration of which has mostly expired by days end) I would like to ask parents to go over the missed books with the kids especially on the weekends. March's reading schedule is lined up as follows....

Week 1 - "Eat Your Peas, Louise!"

Week 2 - "Stinky Clothes"

Week 3 - "Sometimes Things Change"

Week 4 - "One Smart Fish"

Core Material

Most of the students still find the core material quite easy to understand. The subject matter is covered in more detail in the other books we have been working through, but the stories at least provide some variety to concepts being taught and also some different usage for the same vocabulary.

In March we will continue working through the story "Which Way on the Map?" and phonics sounds ch, wh, -tch and ph. They are all familiar with these sounds already as before and we have practiced them in spelling and writing classes too, but here we will focus on them specifically in a sense to practice through practical usage.

Phonics

In the phonics class we are working through the allocated book covering the wide variety of the name sake. While some sounds need more practice to remember their spelling and strategy uses, others come as fairly simple and we will try to cover them all. This is nearly an impossible task to accomplish for kindergarten as even throughout schooling these concepts come with some difficulties and exceptions and the like.

As we move into new concepts and revise the old ones, some students enjoy remembering what they've learned and others sometimes get a bit disheartened that they are learning something new when already it is hard to remember what they learned before. I try to highlight to the students though that they shouldn't stress and after they go in and out of topics everytime they come around they will pick up a little more and be surprised with how much they remember.

Our next set of topics that we will introduce however are:

Vowel digraphs - ea, oo, au, aw

Diphthongs - ow, oi, oy, ew

Workbook Jump 2

The kids have all enjoyed the exercises in this series, they are quite easy for them now, and when things are easy we enjoy completing them more than when it's too hard. Keeping things a little bit challenging in any case to make sure that we continue to progress nicely too. Jump 2 is following in line with the weekly vocabulary spelling and also keeps up with the same grammar rules for sentence structures like we see in the Write Now book and some the worksheets we have been doing.

Week 1: Questions and answers about routines

Week 2: Fill in the missing words and unscramble sentences

Week 3: Do, does, don't, doesn't using routines and time

Week 4: Colour in the picture according to number

Writing

Write Now workbook provides topical subject matter to work with, more than it provides independent work through exercises. So while I am still keeping tight supervision on the actual writing input, I allow more individual input through discussion in class as a group. This is working nicely to get students thinking in the target language and responding appropriately.

Each month will follow a similar series of workbook page stages, story, then comprehension questions in the form of pictures and tables or sentence corrections and multiple choice, followed by sentence creation and creative writing practice using the vocabulary and sentence structures we practiced earlier on in the chapter.

This March we will be working through the theme to describe someone using an assortment of adjectives that have been learnt in vocabulary provided here and in all the other workbooks as well.

MPM Math (Multiple Practice Module)

The MPM Math series focuses a lot on a variety of daily problem solving strategies, not just math, although counting plays a large role in the functions of the guided stories through a variety of topics, including farming, travel, colour coordination, baked goods, sweets, exploring and many more. These also provide great material for conversation practice, including but not limited to: what fruit and vegetables do you like, I like.... and have you ever picked or planted.... and have you ever taken a plane or been on a bus or...

Week 1 - Plane concept: relative position, matching clues to shapes and grids.

Week 2 - Measurements

Week 3 - Telling the time exercises

Week 4 - Coordinates, tables using animals and numbers to match according to clues.

Spelling

You can help your children greatly by just simply reviewing the weekly list with them, sounding the word and spelling it together, at least just once a day and on weekends, not making a big deal of it or taking time out of your day, just quickly revise a word or two here and there will help plenty enough.

This months spelling vocabulary are:

Week 1: before, far, first, girl, her, herd, purse, start, store o'clock

Week 2: their, buy, right, always, very, don't, their, which, dinner, lunch

Week 3: bread, mail, meat, heat, head, feather, loaf, spread, sprain peas

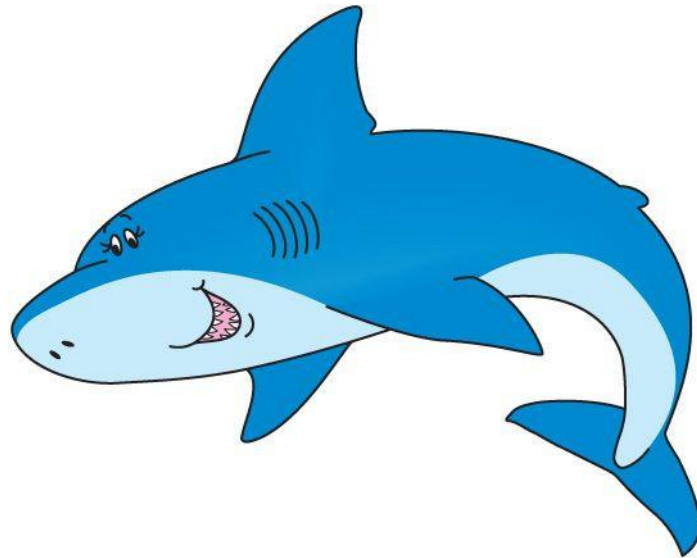
Week 4: moon, hook, good, wool, soon, smooth, room, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Conclusion

In some regards the kids need a little push to stay on track with their learning, but it remains important to remember they are still children and while they are children they also need to be allowed a certain freedom from intense responsibility, as we all know well enough, we have the rest of our lives to be responsible for things. Learning at this age should be more geared toward a passive exposure to educating concepts, rather than concentrated effort. Introducing and playing with ideas and new material will naturally inspire their curiosity to learn about it. New books and themes and pictures and games, colours and sounds and fun are all the way to go. I hope you have fun with your kids as much as we do and all the best for the new semester.

Thanks

Teacher Justin



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新年假期真的很棒，也希望大家跟家人們度過了很棒的新年假期喔。放了很長一個假期後，孩子們回到學校生活，剛開始無法進入狀況，但也慢慢調整回來囉。接下來的三月，孩子們即將要開始準備畢業典禮的戲劇表演了，而劇本我目前在編輯中喔。

閱讀

閱讀的課程因排在下午的期間，而有些孩子們都很早就放學回家了，也因此錯失了練習閱讀書本的機會。我在這裡也麻煩爸爸媽媽們可以在家中，也協助孩子們多練習閱讀書本喔。以下為每週閱讀書本：

第一週- “Eat Your Peas, Louise!”

第二週 - “Stinky Clothes”

第三週 - “Sometimes Things Change”

第四週 - “One Smart Fish”

核心課程

大部分的孩子們都已經能夠容易了解此本書的內容囉，裡面有很多的內容都和之前所教過的課本內容是一樣的。且裡面的內容大多都是提供孩子們多樣性的思考和一些使用性向進的單字讓孩子們學習喔。

在三月裡，我們持續在練習“Which Way on the Map?” 和發音 ch, wh, -tch and ph 的字首。而孩子們幾乎都非常的熟悉，因為，之前，在拼音和書寫課程中都有練習過喔。

發音

在發音的課程中，透過多種類的目標來指引孩子們學習，有一些發音是必須透過多次練習和多使用規則性的方式練習才有辦法完全記得每個字母的發音。而在幼稚園期間，是不可能將這些發音的概念完全都學會，這是非常困難的。

當孩子們在學習新的發音概念和修改舊的發音時，一些孩子們已經都懂得把以前學過的拿出來運用，而有些時候，孩子們在學習這課程時，較困難的部分會容易有挫折感，也因此，我試著提示孩

子們引導他們學習，不要讓他們感受到壓力感，有時候不給壓力的方式，會讓孩子們在學習上學習的更快超乎我們的想像喔。

下一個部分孩子們要學習的是兩個母音何在一起的發音，如- ea, oo, au, aw 和複合元音- ow, oi, oy, ew

書寫本 Jump 2

孩子們在這部分的練習都已經越來越上手了，所以，我會增加些較難的讓孩子們練習看看，讓孩子們可以增加挑戰，也能確定孩子們是否優質在進步。在 Jump 2 的內容中，都有涵蓋每一週的單字拼音，孩子們也利用了一樣的文法規則並加入單子，照出有結構性的完整句子。而有些部分，我們在之前也有在學習單中練習過喔。

第一週: Questions and answers about routines

第二週: Fill in the missing words and unscramble sentences

第三週: Do, does, don't, doesn't using routines and time

第四週: Colour in the picture according to number

書寫

此本書的內容都是提供主題式的方式來讓孩子們學習，比較沒有依孩子的個別差異去引導孩子們學習，所以，我自己製作比較依孩子們個別的練習題來讓孩子們利用討論的方式做學習，在這部分，能夠引導孩子們個別的和利用英文表達時更正確性。在每一個月裡，孩子們都會練習書本中的一些內容，而也會透過圖片描述來講出正確的句子，也會透過利用單字來練習造出有架構性的句子喔。在每一個月裡，孩子們都會練習書本中的一些內容，而也會透過圖片描述來講出正確的句子，也會透過利用單字來練習造出有架構性的句子喔。這個三月，孩子們將會透過每本課本中，學習多種類的形容詞單字，並且，利用這些形容詞單字來描述物品和事物喔。

MPM 數學

在 MPM 數學中，主要是讓孩子們透過生活中多樣性的問題來解出題目，不是單單只有算術而已，透過多樣性的主題，包括：農業、旅行、顏色分類、物品等，來解出答案。在這部分，也提供了孩子們多練習英文口說，沒有任何限制，如: what fruit and vegetables do you like, I like.... and have you ever picked or planted.... and have you ever taken a plane or been on a bus or ... °

第一週-平面概念: 相關位置, 將相同形狀最配對

第二週- 測量

第三週- 時間概念練習

第四週- 同一類別的概念, 將相同的動物和數量做配對

拼音

各位爸爸媽媽們可以將每一週的單字拿出來和孩子們一起重複的練習，發音拼字一起練，每天或是假日，一天一點的單字，不會花一整天的時間，一天一點的單字量練習，就對孩子們非常有幫助了喔。

本月的單字:

第一週: before, far, first, girl, her, herd, purse, start, store o'clock

第二週: their, buy, right, always, very, don't, their, which, dinner, lunch

第三週: bread, mail, meat, heat, head, feather, loaf, spread, sprain peas

第四週: moon, hook, good, wool, soon, smooth, room, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

總結

有一些孩子是必須要去協助他們多複習和練習，但我想跟各位爸爸媽媽說的重要的事是，孩子在這幼兒園階段事實上還是年紀很小的，孩子們是需要有更多的自由來學習，而不是用填鴨式的方式還強迫他們學習，這樣反而是會造成學習上的反效果。現在的孩子們其實要接近大自然已經非常不容易了，其實透過大自然的探索和透過和小孩子們一起閱讀繪本，內容中的圖片“遊戲”顏色等，都是很好的方式來幫助孩子們學習的資源。希望，在這最後的一學期鯊魚班的爸爸媽媽們可以和我們一同與孩子們學習中成長喔。謝謝！

Teacher Justin