



# THE JUNIOR OBSERVER



The Official Newsletter of The Junior Academy !

## ONLINE LEARNING DURING COVID-19: PART TWO

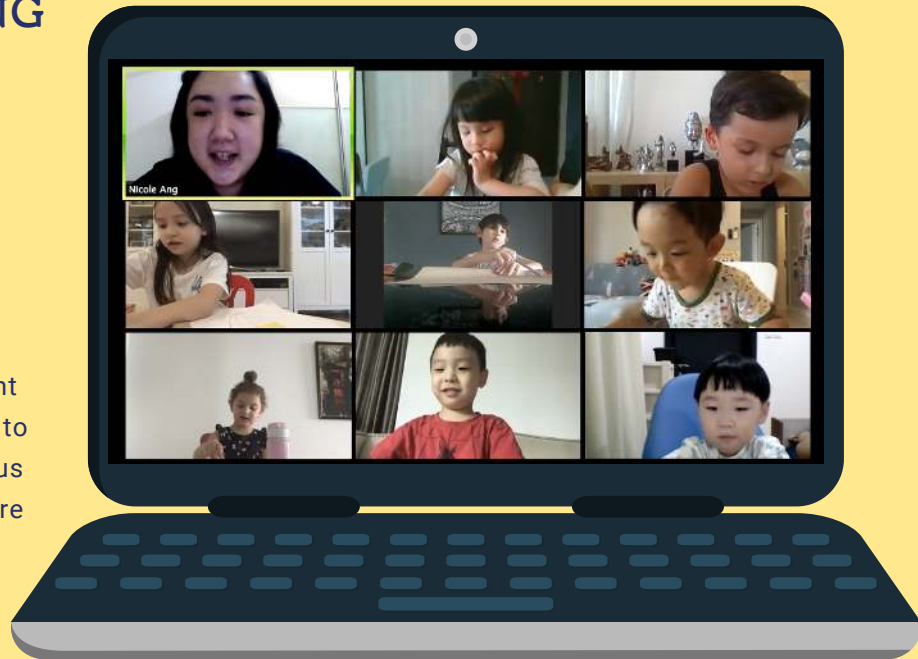
by Zoe T.

October 22nd, 2020

Online learning is no easy feat-- we learned this from the first round of online schooling. But, despite all of the technical difficulties, the challenges of combining your home environment with your school environment, and the struggle to sit in front of a computer for a long time to focus (especially at such a young age): our children are coping better with this drastic change this time around.

One thing that we learned from our last experience with online schooling was needing to make the learning environment more fun for the children, while still maintaining an academic tone.

This past week, our teachers have worked to make class more enjoyable for the kids through

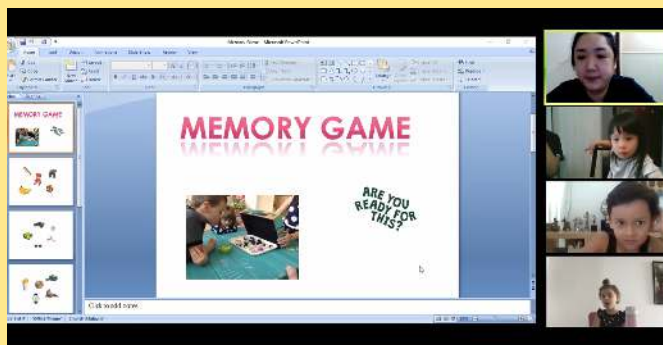


the incorporation of more visual and tactile learning. Ensuring that this is a part of the children's online learning experience is crucial, as this gives them a sense of familiarity with what they're used to doing in their school environment.

Some of the activities the children have been doing over the last week include: learning about the life cycles of different living things such as plants and honeybees (and penguins the following week), playing alphabet bingo to reinforce the letters they have learned in school, and engaging their brains with memory games to work on focus and concentration.

Over the course of the week, I've noticed how much the children have grown to enjoy learning and feel less stressed about churning out work just to simply have a final product.

During our culture lesson today, the children were engrossed in learning about the technique of pull string art and had so much fun using their creativity and imagination to paint a picture. So much so that one of our students, Brooke, in spite of all of the challenges with online school, was still able to tell her teacher:



Above: the memory game our kids played which required immense focus and active participation.

**READ ON TO SEE PICTURES OF THE PULL STRING ART AND MORE ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING THIS TIME AROUND ! -->**

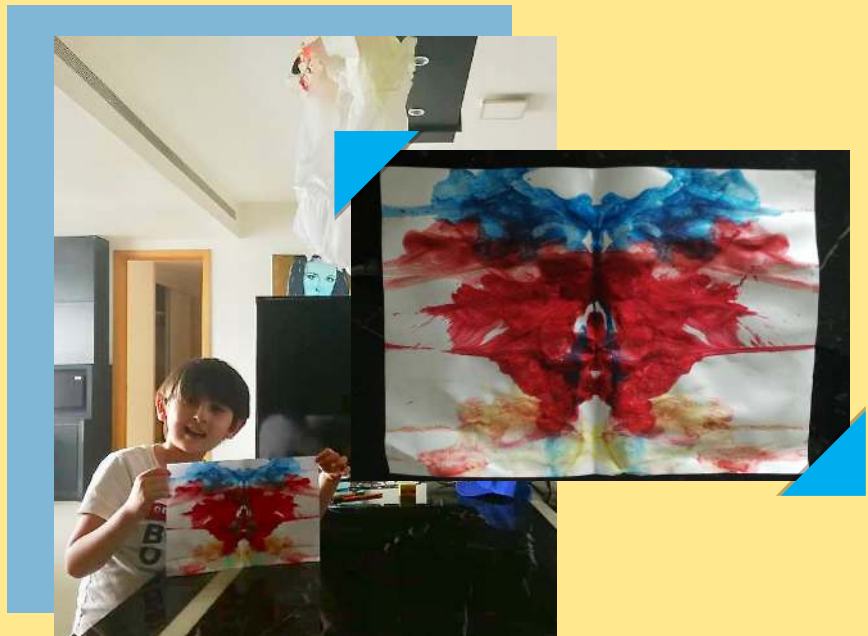
**NEXT PAGE →**

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"I love school !" Even though this was such a short and spur-of-the-moment statement, it warmed my heart so much because it showed how essential it is to prioritize the children's interests when learning, and how their willingness to learn and grow will come from that.

In addition to that, something I've noticed that some of the children have been telling their parents during online school is "I want to do this by myself because my friends are doing it by themselves." It is so wonderful to hear that the children want to be so independent, and influence one another with healthy habits such as being a self-directed learner. Children are natural learners, and so as adults-- teachers and parents, we should continue to serve as a guide for the children in their learning, but let them take the reins and forge their own path of self-growth. Every child is unique, so we must allow them to develop their own style of learning and explore all that their education has to offer, as opposed to forcing the children into one way of learning. It is so crucial that we give the children time, resources, and the support to grow, especially during this challenging time for education.

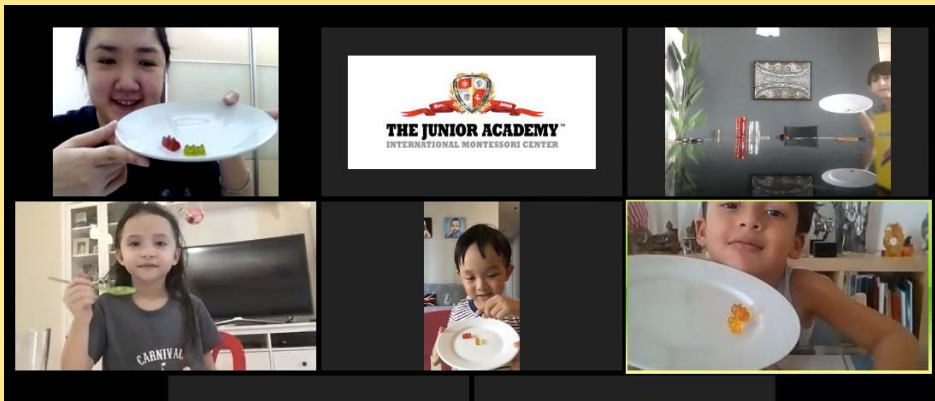
With the uncertainty of how long we will be in online school, things may seem a little bleak, but we are so confident in our students, so proud of them, and know they will continue to learn and grow at their own pace, and flourish in their own way during this tough time.



*Above: one of our students, Alexander, with his finished pull string art from his culture lesson, as well as a ghost he made during his after school art class hanging above him !*



*Left: one of our students, Te Enn, measuring the amount of water different cups can hold. Absolutely astonished with learning about the imperial units of volume !*



*Above: one of our teachers and some of our students with their gummy bears for their experiment ! The aim of the experiment was to observe the growth of the gummy bears due to osmosis.*

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