

Ethan Ruizhe Cao

Learning & Adventures

January 2025

The Star of the Week

Well done, Ethan!

After only three weeks of joining the new class, Ethan was awarded Stars of the Week in Nursery A (January 20th - January 24th).



"Ethan for settling into his new environment and showing his kind nature." - Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies



Highlights of this month

Don't miss out

Ethan started at The British School of Beijing (BSB), a Nord Anglia Education school, on January 6, 2025, joining the Nursery class.

The academic year at BSB starts in August and ends in June the following year, divided into three terms. Therefore, Ethan joined the school at the beginning of Term 2. Nursery has two classes, A and B, and Ethan is in Nursery A.

Ethan is the youngest child in Nursery A. He quickly adapted to the new environment and, by the third week, was awarded Stars of the Week.

Report Framework

A Holistic Approach to Development

Holistic education is central to Ethan's learning journey. Our goal is to support his growth across all domains—**academic, personal, and social**.

To reflect this, the report is organized into **five key areas** aligned with both the **British EYFS curriculum** and **widely recognized international education principles**, including those found in the **IB PYP**.

Report Area	EYFS Areas	PYP Areas
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science and the World	Understanding the World	Science Social Studies
Physical and Personal Development	Physical Development Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical, Social and Personal Education
Language	Communication and Language Literacy	Language
Arts and Design	Expressive Arts and Design	Arts



Ethan enjoyed the cleaning task

"Ethan was very helpful when we tidied up, he got a broom and cleaned carefully. He helped to sweep small pieces paper into the dustbin, move the chairs to get some under the table and poured it into the bin.

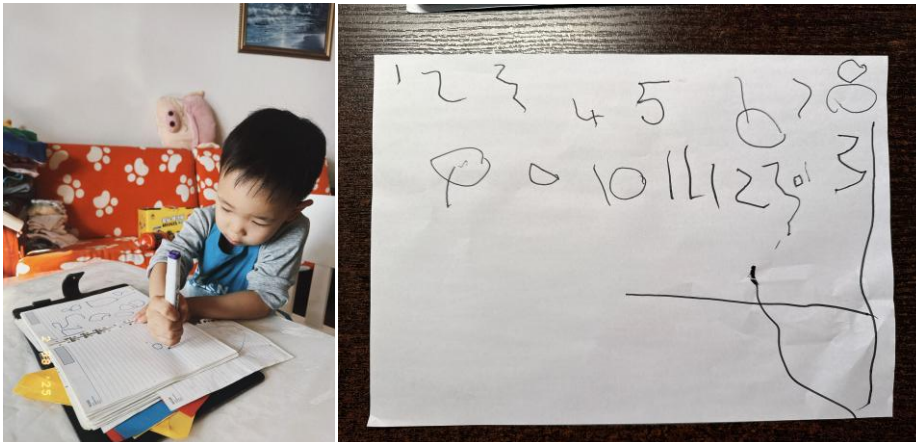
He enjoyed this cleaning task, thank you for your teamwork Ethan!" - **Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies**

Mathematics

Ethan's Progress in Mathematics

Ethan attends **three mathematics lessons** per week at **BSB**. Beyond the classroom, he has shown **significant progress** both at home and through the **Montessori Sensory Exploration Course** he attends outside of school. His number skills include:

- **Counting up to 999** and reading **three-digit numbers**
- Counting up to 20 using **one-to-one correspondence**
- Developing **subitizing skills** (instantly recognizing quantities up to 4 without counting)
- Understanding **odd and even numbers** within 10
- Beginning to grasp **basic addition** with numbers up to 20
- Mastering **+1 and -1 operations** within 10



Ethan and His Number Writing Journey

On January 24, 2025, Ethan practiced writing numbers at home.



Montessori Cylinder Block

At 2 years and 6 months, Ethan completed the **Montessori Cylinder Block**



Ethan Completed the Hundred Board Before Turning 3

Ethan loves spotting numbers and letters wherever he goes—especially reading license plates one by one in parking lots.



Montessori Trinomial Cube

At age 3, Ethan could complete the **Montessori Trinomial Cube** in just over two minutes. He first mastered it independently at **2 years and 8 months**.



Montessori Cylinders

At 2 years and 7 months, Ethan successfully completed the **Montessori Cylinders**, showing focus and fine motor control.

Science and the World

Scientific Exploration and Understanding the World

Ethan actively engages in **hands-on science experiments**, exploring concepts such as **static electricity**, **pH levels**, **balance**, and **center of gravity**. He has grasped principles like **capillary action** and **superabsorbent polymers**.

He demonstrates a growing understanding of **time**, including the **present**, **future**, and terms like “in a few days,” as well as memories from when he was a baby. He is also learning to recognize **calendar elements** such as **dates** and **days of the week**.

Ethan’s awareness of the **seasons** has developed significantly. He can clearly distinguish between **summer and winter**, and describe characteristics of **spring and autumn**.

He shows **remarkable geographical awareness** for his age. By 2½, he could independently complete **world and China map puzzles** on blank boards, identifying several major countries.

Ethan also enjoys **exploring nature**. He grew his first plant and carefully observed its sprouting process. His interest in **seasonal change** continues through collecting and examining a variety of leaves.



Hands-On Engineering: Early Explorations

By 2½, Ethan had become skilled at using children’s tools such as **pliers**, **screwdrivers**, **scissors**, and **hammers**, starting with toy construction vehicles. This photo, taken on **November 29, 2024** (age 3 years 1 month), shows him assembling toys at his **Montessori class**.



Autumn Leaf Collection at Olympic Park

On **October 28, 2024**, while attending his **Montessori early education class** in Beijing, Ethan visited **Olympic Park** to collect fallen **autumn leaves**.

Sorting by Colour: Orderly and Observant

"Ethan was enjoying playing with the Zodiac animals on the carpet. He began to put each animal into one circle. The teacher heard Ethan saying colour names in Chinese, so the teacher asked, 'Ethan what are you doing?'. He replied in Chinese saying that he was putting the animals on the colours, but he said some colours are not here such as green. Very observant!" - **Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies**



Map Puzzles

At **2 years 9 months**, Ethan completed the **Oceania map puzzle**. At **2 years 10 months**, he completed the **Asia map puzzle**.

By 2½, he could independently complete both the **world** and **China map puzzles**.



Five-Minute Building Construction

On **July 9, 2024**, Ethan completed this building project in just **five minutes** at the **Montessori Early Education Center**.



Physical and Personal Development

Building Physical Skills & Connections

Ethan has **one PE lesson** each week at **BSB** and also attends **an additional PE class** outside of school.

Ethan enjoys being with his peers and formed **close friendships** during his **first week at BSB**.

He also keeps in touch with friends from his **Montessori early learning center**, regularly meeting up to **play together**.



Ethan Played Cars with Classmates

On his **first day in Nursery A (January 6, 2025)**, Ethan built **racetracks** and played **car racing games** with his classmates.



Ethan Enjoyed Water Play with a Classmate

"Ethan has enjoyed investigating water in the water tray. When I walked over, Lucas was holding a tube and Ethan was putting balls in one end to see where it ended up. The boys worked together to transport the balls.

Ethan also enjoyed using a pipette to spray water." - **Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher**



First Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Trial Class

On **December 22, 2024** (age **3 years 2 months**), Ethan attended his first **Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu** trial class. He followed the instructor's guidance through several movements and maintained **high energy** throughout.

While Ethan was enthusiastic, we decided to wait until he's a bit older before enrolling in regular classes.



Shopkeeper - Ethan Enjoys Role Play

"Ethan enjoyed engaging with our 'shop' role play area. He offered pretend items to friends and teachers, packed everything into **hongbaos**, and traded with classmates."

— **Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies**

Language

Ethan's Journey in Language Development

Ethan has **one Show and Tell**, **three Talk4Writing lessons**, **three Phonics lessons**, **one Topic lesson**, **one Assembly lesson**, and **five Chinese lessons** each week at BSB.

Ethan learned the **alphabet song** within a week and often hums it while sliding outdoors.

Ethan quickly memorized all his classmates' **English names**, showing strong listening and memory skills.

Ethan has adapted well to the **English-speaking environment** at BSB and enjoys learning the English names of various things, especially animals.



Interactive Learning: Exploring Numbers with 'Three Blind Mice'

Ethan and his classmates sang *Three Blind Mice*, using fingers to represent the number three. They also played a 'Bunny Ears' game to show one, two, or three fingers.



Learning Through Stories: 'The Three Little Pigs'

Ethan read *The Three Little Pigs* with his teacher and classmates.



Ethan's Show and Tell

Ethan shared photos and videos from his holiday with his classmates and teachers.



Arts and Design

Creative Growth Through Arts and Design

Ethan attends **two music lessons** and **one topic lesson** each week at **BSB**, and also takes **weekly music and art classes** outside of school.

His love for music is clear in daily life—whether in the car, at home, or strolling through **CityWalk** at **Universal Studios**. He demonstrates a natural ability to quickly pick up new songs and spontaneously sing them.



Ethan Handcrafted Chinese New Year Cards for His Classmates and Teachers

Ethan handmade **20 Chinese New Year** cards—**17 for classmates** and **3 for teachers**—to share festive wishes.



Artwork "Halloween Hat"

Created on **October 27, 2024**, at the **Montessori Early Education Center**.



Artwork "Lantern"

Created on **January 11, 2025**, at the **Montessori Early Childhood Center**. Ethan made a **lantern** to celebrate **Chinese New Year**.



Artwork "Planets"

Created on **November 7, 2024**, at the **Montessori Early Education Center**.

Special Section

Ethan's Growth at the Montessori Early Education Center

In **July 2023**, at **21 months old**, Ethan began attending the **LearnRoom Montessori Early Education Center** in Beijing, participating in **Sensory Activities, Music, Art**, and more.

On **May 7, 2024**, at **30 months old**, Ethan advanced to the **3–4-year-old senior class**. Despite being the youngest, he adapted quickly and thrived **socially and emotionally**.

Ethan attended full-day programs (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), with courses including **Sensory Integration, PE, English, Music, Virtue, Art, Montessori Exploration, Science Experiments, Circle Time**, and **Outdoor Activities**.

Ethan graduated from the center on **January 3, 2025**, and soon began **Term 2 at BSB** on **January 6, 2025**.



**Montessori Early Learning Center
Graduation**

On **January 3, 2025**, Ethan celebrated his **graduation** from the **LearnRoom Montessori Early Learning Center**.



Ethan Enjoyed Reading

Ethan has developed a strong **reading habit**. His favorite place to visit is the **library**—even during a Chinese New Year family gathering, he stopped by the nearby library **before and after the meal**.



Ethan's Impressive Progress in Math

On **November 24, 2024**, at just **3 years and 1 month old**, Ethan began the **Montessori Sensory Exploration Course Grade 1**, designed for children aged **3.5 to 4.5**.



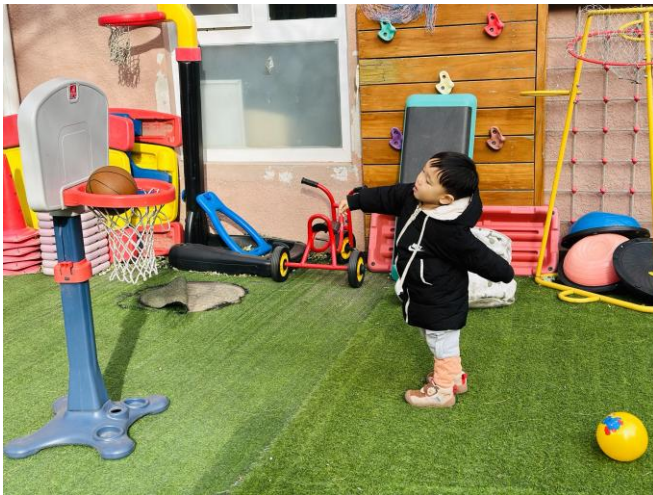
**Ethan Enjoys Science
Experiments**

Ethan enjoys conducting **small hands-on experiments**, exploring how things work through observation and play.

Ethan Can Complete 36-Piece Puzzles

Ethan has shown a strong interest in **puzzles and maps**, and could already complete both the **China** and **world map** puzzles by the age of **2½**.





Ethan's Love for Ball Games

We're nurturing his passion by encouraging him to try various **ball games**. As a **New Zealander**, Ethan especially enjoys playing **rugby** with his parents at the park.



Ethan in Physical Education Class – 2 Years and 7 Months

Ethan loves to say, "**Ethan is strong!**"



Ethan, Who Loves Hands-On Activities

Ethan thrives on **hands-on activities**, from building and sorting to experimenting and constructing.



Ethan's 3rd Birthday Party

In **October 2024**, the early learning center held a **birthday party** to celebrate Ethan's **third birthday**.

Ethan in a Physical Education Class

The early learning center offers a **weekly Physical Education class**. Ethan has consistently participated since he was **21 months old**, and always looks forward to the sessions.

