

Ethan Ruizhe Cao

Learning & Adventures

June 2025

Half a Year of Growth

What His Teachers Say

“Ethan has shown fantastic progress in developing a growth mindset this term, approaching new challenges with increasing confidence and perseverance.”

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

“His determination to learn new skills and improve his gross motor abilities is inspiring.”

— Ms Liu, PE & Swimming Teacher



“Ethan demonstrates excellent rhythmic awareness, consistently maintaining the steady beat during listening activities.”

— Ms Wang, Music Teacher

“He has made good progress in learning Chinese characters, ancient poems, and stories, and can recognise many Chinese characters.”

— Miss Song, Chinese Teacher

“He can make thoughtful connections between ideas and often used what he has learnt in one context to enhance his play in another.” - Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies



Highlights of This Half Year

Big Steps Ahead

Since joining The British School of Beijing (BSB), a Nord Anglia Education school, in January 2025, Ethan has made remarkable progress throughout Terms 2 and 3 of the 2024–2025 academic year.

As the youngest student in his class and an early entrant, he reached a major milestone in Term 3: five previously “not on track” areas improved to “on track,” reflecting his rapid development and growing confidence.

He was named Star of the Week once in each of Terms 2 and 3, and at the EY Prize Giving Ceremony, received the Perfect Progress in English Award—a recognition of his outstanding growth in communication and language.

Celebrating His Achievements

January – June 2025

During his first six months at The British School of Beijing, Ethan was recognized for both his academic progress and positive attitude toward learning.

He was named **Star of the Week** in two consecutive terms and received the **Perfect Progress in English Award** at the **EY Prize Giving Ceremony**.



Mathematics

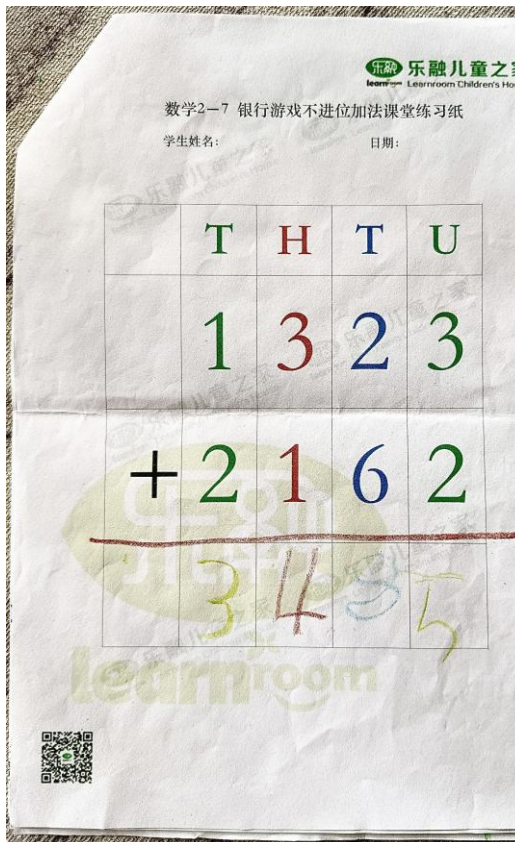
Ethan's Progress in Mathematics

At **3 years and 5 months**, Ethan successfully completed **Grade 1** of the **Montessori Sensory Exploration Course**, a program typically designed for children aged 3.5 to 4.5. He is now receiving **one-on-one instruction** in **Grade 2**, intended for learners aged 4.5 to 5.

The course comprises **four progressive grades**: **Grade 3** targets children aged 5 to 5.5, while **Grade 4** extends beyond that range. Ethan is on track to complete most of the **Grade 3 curriculum** within this year.

Through this program, Ethan is now able to:

- Understand the basic concept of **fractions**
- Work confidently with **four-digit numbers**
- Perform **four-digit addition with carrying**
- Recognize and extend **number sequences, patterns, and combinations**
- Identify and describe a wide range of **2D and 3D geometric shapes**



Non-carrying Addition Exercise

Miyu
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Science and the World

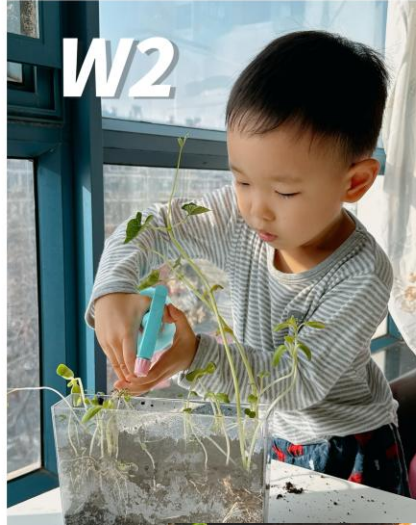
Scientific Exploration and Understanding the World

Ethan has a **natural curiosity** about how things work and enjoys **hands-on science experiments**. He often recalls **scientific terms and concepts**—for example, he can explain how **water-absorbing polymers** work.

He also explores the **natural world** by growing plants at home and school, carefully observing their growth from **seed to sprout**. To learn about bees, he visited a **beekeeping farm** and watched them up close with great focus.

His curiosity extends beyond science into **geography and culture**. He has started learning about **countries and their flags**.

Ethan also has a **deep love for animals**. Whether feeding **lions and bears** or watching **hippos at the zoo**, he is always **fully engaged**—and never wants to leave.



Science: Exploring Water-Absorbing Polymers

Using diaper polymers and colored dye, Ethan created a pretend summer drink as part of a hands-on science experiment.



Physical and Personal Development

Building Physical Skills & Connections

Ethan loves **physical activity** and constantly **pushes his limits**. Even after a 60-minute PE class, he often repeats soft play obstacle courses and **climbs the wall** several more times before stopping.

Outside of school, he attends **weekend PE classes** and, since **July 2025**, has taken weekly **rock-climbing sessions**—which he truly enjoys. He **thrives on challenge** and takes pride in his progress.

He quickly learned to **ride a bike** and **drive a children's electric car**. Well before turning three, he was already enjoying **roller coasters** at Universal Studios. By 3½, he had ridden **the outdoor coaster** in the Harry Potter area.

Ethan has also made **many friends** at school. He's become more **confident** when meeting new children—**starting conversations** on his own and showing growing **awareness of social boundaries**.



Language

Ethan's Journey in Language Development

At BSB, Ethan takes part in one **Show and Tell**, three **Talk4Writing** sessions, three **Phonics** lessons, one **Topic** lesson, one **Assembly**, and five **Chinese** lessons each week.

During Show and Tell, he shares photos or videos from his life outside school, building confidence in speaking to his classmates.

On Thursdays after school, Ethan joins an online class—**Show and Tell (Practise Speaking Skills)**—with Miss Libby, a Canadian teacher with over 30 years of experience.

No matter where he is, Ethan often asks, “**What’s the English for this?**” He loves learning new words—and sometimes even teaches his parents!

He also loves visiting **libraries** and **bookstores**—whether at the mall or by the seaside, he always asks to go to the library.



Ethan shared highlights from his week with classmates and teachers during Show and Tell.



Ethan is always eager to explore bookstores and libraries—and never wants to leave.



Each morning at school, Ethan starts the day by writing his name.



Arts and Design

Creative Growth Through Arts and Design

At 3 years and 4 months, Ethan began LEGO robotics classes, where he developed foundational **spatial awareness** and **construction skills**, and showed interest in the **shapes**, **materials**, and **functions** of his creations.

In June 2025, at 3 years and 7 months, Ethan submitted an original artwork to the **2025 National Youth Art Exhibition**, hosted by the **Central Academy of Fine Arts** in China.



Artwork " Beautiful Lunar New Year – Here Comes the Nian Beast "

Ethan submitted this original piece to the 2025 National Youth Art Exhibition, hosted by the Central Academy of Fine Arts. The creative process was recorded and shared online.



Artwork: "Little Monster" — a freehand drawing.



Ethan working on his artwork "Volcanic Eruption."



LEGO robotics projects completed independently by Ethan with teacher guidance, including the Eiffel Tower and a sea-crossing bridge.

