

# 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/Teddis**



## 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*

We believe in the importance of holistic development, a concept at the heart of both BSB's holistic education and the IB's Learner Profile. Our goal is to support Ethan's growth across all areas, ensuring that he develops both academically and personally. To support this, our report will be organized into five key areas that align with both his current British EYFS curriculum at BSB and the IB PYP framework:

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



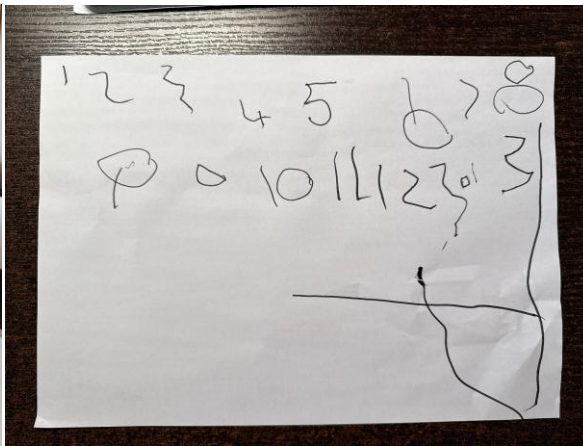
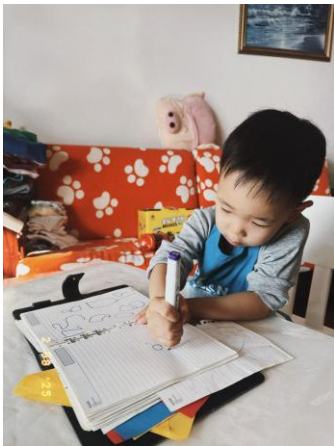
# Mathematics

## *Ethan's Progress in Mathematics*

Ethan attends three mathematics lessons per week at BSB. This month, he learned about the numbers 1, 2, and 3.

Beyond the classroom, Ethan has demonstrated significant progress in mathematics both at home and in extracurricular class. His number skills include:

- Counting up to 999 and reading three-digit numbers
- Demonstrating one-to-one correspondence counting with numbers up to 20
- 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 for numbers within 10



**Ethan and His number writing journey**

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



**Ethan Completed the Montessori Trinomial Cube in Just Over 2 Minutes at Age 3**

At 3 years old, 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 old, Ethan was able to complete the Montessori Cylinders.



**Montessori Cylinder Block**

At 2 years and 6 months old, Ethan was able to complete the Montessori Cylinder Block.



**Ethan Completed the Hundred Board Before Turning 3**

Ethan loves recognizing numbers and letters. He especially enjoys reading the numbers and letters on license plates one by one in parking lots.

# Science and the World

## *Scientific Exploration and Understanding the World*

Ethan actively conducts small science experiments, exploring static electricity, pH levels, balance, and center of gravity, among others. He has already grasped concepts such as capillary action and superabsorbent polymers.

Ethan has demonstrated a growing understanding of time concepts, including present, future, "in a few days," and memories from when he was a baby. While developing his understanding of calendar concepts, Ethan is learning to recognize dates and days of the week.

Ethan's awareness of seasons has developed significantly. He can clearly differentiate between summer and winter, and identify distinct characteristics of spring and autumn.

Ethan shows remarkable geographical awareness for his age. By 2 and a half, he could independently complete both the world and the China map puzzle on blank boards, identifying several major countries.

Demonstrates interest in nature by growing his first plant and eagerly observing the sprouting process, along with a sustained interest in seasonal changes through collecting various leaves.



**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

### **Autumn Leaf Collection at Olympic Park**

On October 28, 2024, during the autumn in Beijing, while Ethan was still attending his Montessori early education class, he went to the Olympic Park to collect fallen autumn leaves.



**Hands-On Engineering: Early Explorations**

Starting with his toy construction vehicles, Ethan became skilled at using children's tools, such as small pliers, screwdrivers, scissors, and hammers, by the age of two and a half. The photo, taken on November 29, 2024 (at age 3 years 1 month), shows Ethan assembling toys at his Montessori early education class.



**Map Puzzles**

At 2 years and 9 months, Ethan could complete the Oceania map puzzle. At 2 years and 10 months, Ethan could complete the Asia map puzzle.

At 2 and a half years old, Ethan could independently complete both the world and the China map puzzles.



### **Five-Minute Building Construction**

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





# Physical and Personal Development

## *Building Physical Skills & Connections*

Ethan has Active Learning & Snack sessions every morning and afternoon at BSB, along with one PE lesson per week.

Ethan also attends 1–2 physical activity classes outside of school each week.

Ethan enjoys being with his friends and made several close buddies during his first week at BSB.

Ethan's friends from his Montessori early learning center stay in touch and meet up to play together.



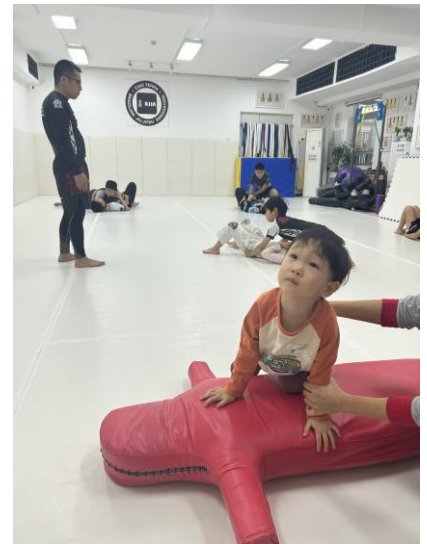
**Ethan Played Cars with Classmates**

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



**Shopkeeper - Ethan enjoys 'shop' in role play area**

"Ethan has enjoyed engaging with our 'shop' in the role play area. He took pretend items and offered them to friends and teachers to buy. He put all the things into hongbaos and traded with other classmates." - Shannon Gallagher, Nursery Teacher & Head of Nursery/Teddies



**First Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Trial Class**

On December 22, 2024, at age 3 years and 2 months, Ethan participated in his first Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu trial class. He successfully followed the instructor's guidance through several movements and maintained high energy throughout the session. While Ethan showed great enthusiasm, we decided to wait until he's a bit older before starting regular classes.



**Sorting by Colour, Orderliness 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

# 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 in just one week and enjoys humming it while playing on the slide outdoors.

Ethan quickly memorized all his classmates' English names.

Ethan has adapted well to the English-speaking environment at BSB and loves learning the English names of various things, such as many animal names.



**Ethan's Show and Tell**

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



**Learning Through Stories: 'The Three Little Pigs'**

Ethan and his classmates, along with their teacher, read 'The Three Little Pigs'.



**Sharing Holiday Memories**

Ethan shared photos and videos from his holiday with his classmates and teachers, allowing them to join in his experiences.



**Interactive Learning: Exploring Numbers with 'Three Blind Mice'**

Ethan and his classmates, along with their teacher, sang 'Three Blind Mice' to represent the number three with their fingers, then played a game of 'Bunny Ears' to practice showing one, two, or three fingers.



# Arts and Design

## *Creative Growth Through Arts and Design*

Ethan attends two music lessons and one topic lesson weekly at BSB, while also taking weekly music and art classes outside of school.

His love for music is evident in everyday life - whether in the car, strolling along Universal Studios' CityWalk, or at home. 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 his classmates and 3 for his 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 for 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, when Ethan was 21 months old, he began attending the LearnRoom Montessori Early Education Center in Beijing. During this time, he participated in a variety of courses, including Sensory Activities, Music, Art, and more.

On May 7, 2024, at 30 months old, Ethan advanced to the 3-4-year-old senior class at the center. Although he was the youngest in the group, he adapted quickly and thrived both socially and emotionally.

Ethan spends full days at the center, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. His courses include Sensory Integration Activities, Physical Education, English, Music, Virtue, Art, Montessori Exploration Time, Science Experiments, Circle Time, Outdoor Activities and more.

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



### **Montessori Early Learning Center Graduation**

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



### **Ethan Enjoyed Reading**

Ethan has developed a great reading habit. His favorite place to visit is the library. Even during the family gathering for Chinese New Year, he made sure to stop by the library next to the restaurant 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 Math Course S1, designed for children aged 3.5 to 4.5.



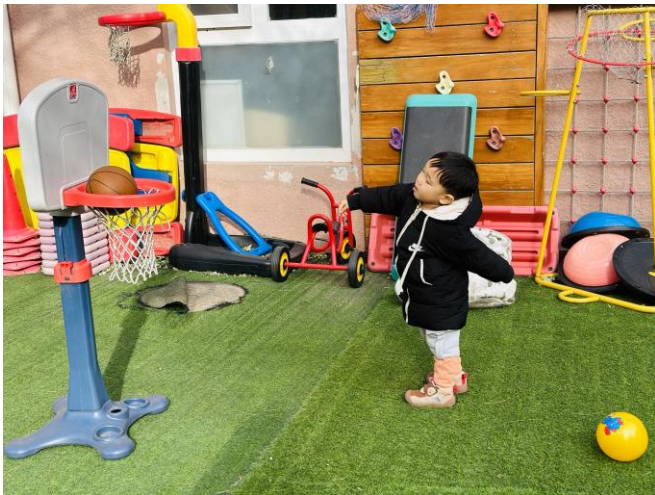
### **Ethan enjoys conducting small experiments.**

### **Ethan can complete 36-piece puzzles (2024)**

Ethan has shown a strong interest in puzzles and maps, having already assembled both China and world maps at just two and a half years old.







### Ethan's Love for Ball Games

We're nurturing his passion by letting him explore all kinds of ball games. As a New Zealander, Ethan 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!"  
(Screenshot from a video)



**Ethan, who loves hands-on activities.**



### Ethan's 3rd Birthday Party

In October 2024, the early learning center held a birthday party for Ethan to celebrate his third birthday.



### Ethan in a Physical Activity Class

The early learning center holds a physical activity class every week.

Since he was 21 months old, Ethan has consistently attended his weekly physical activity sessions.