

In Alam, We Learn

Term 1
October 2024

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IN ALAM, WE LEARN

by Ms. Ella

Welcome to the new academic year 2024-2025!

We're excited to begin another year of exploration and growth with your children at Alam Atelier.

Rooted in Reggio Emilia and nature pedagogy, we value the "100 languages" of children—encouraging them to express thoughts, explore their capabilities, and discover the world. Our flexible curriculum is driven by their interests, promoting creativity, curiosity, and lifelong learning.

Through this approach, we're not only supporting children in reaching academic standards but also empowering them to reach their full potential. Our pedagogy fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and independence, preparing them for success both inside and outside the classroom. The learning outcomes go beyond academics, as we nurture character development, emotional resilience, and a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

At Alam, we emphasize self-help skills and character development, helping children become resilient, capable individuals ready for life's challenges. We also believe in the power of nature as a teacher. Whether it's playing in the rain or creating with mud, children experience hands-on learning that connects them to the natural world.

We embrace the value of risky play to build critical thinking and resilience. Instead of saying "be careful," we use specific guidance like, "Watch your step, that rock is uneven," or "Use both hands to climb, it's a little high." This helps children assess risks thoughtfully and gain confidence in navigating challenges.

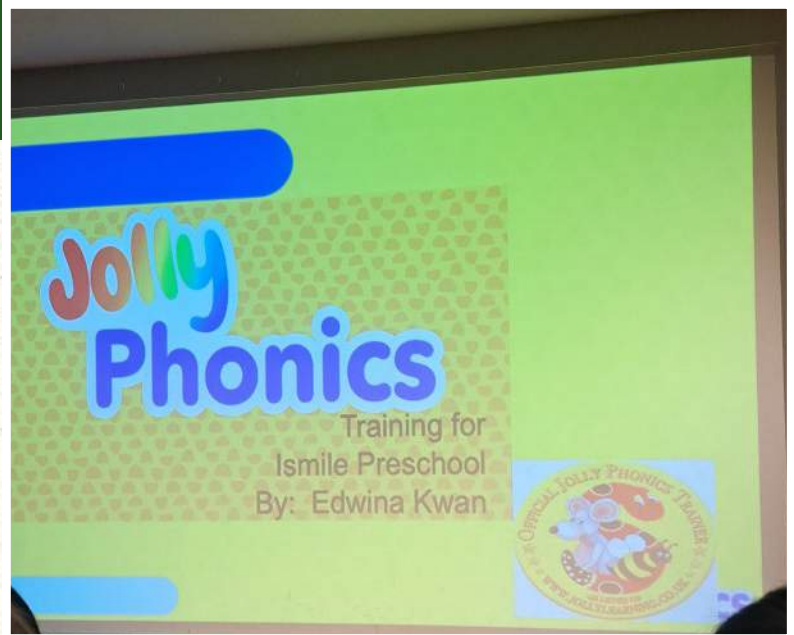


We see parents as partners and value your involvement in this journey. Together, we'll nurture your children into confident, empowered learners. Thank you for being part of the Alam Atelier community!

Warm regards,
Ms. Ella
Vice Coordinator



JOLLY PHONICS TRAINING



Embracing Jolly Phonics through Reggio Emilia and Nature-Based Learning by Ms. Bila

We are thrilled to share a wonderful story about our recent teacher training session on Jolly Phonics, which took place just before the start of our new academic year. As part of our commitment to providing the best early literacy experiences for our children, our dedicated teachers eagerly participated in this intensive 8-hour workshop, led by the renowned Ms. Edwina Kwan.

Our teachers gathered together, filled with enthusiasm and anticipation, ready to embark on this journey of learning. The room buzzed with excitement as they dived into the world of Jolly Phonics, a synthetic phonics program known for its effectiveness in teaching children to read and write in English. With over 35 years of research backing its success, Jolly Phonics has become a cornerstone of early literacy education globally.

The training began with a deep dive into the basics of letter sounds. Ms. Kwan introduced our teachers to the Jolly Phonics songs and Finger Phonics Big Books, demonstrating how to make the introduction of letter sounds interactive and engaging. Our teachers practiced using fun actions, stories, and songs to bring each letter to life, enhancing children's auditory discrimination and phonemic awareness.

Next, our teachers were introduced to various techniques for teaching letter formations. They received numerous ideas for how to help children master the correct formation of letters using natural materials like sticks and pebbles, or tracing letters in the sand. This hands-on approach not only helps children with letter formation but also improves their fine motor skills and handwriting.



When it came to blending and segmenting, our teachers engaged in fun and interactive methods. They played games where each teacher held a letter, and together they formed words by standing next to each other. This activity illustrated how blending sounds creates words and how segmenting breaks down words into individual sounds. These practical exercises ensured our teachers were well-equipped to make these concepts clear and enjoyable for our children.



Teaching tricky words, or sight words, that don't follow standard phonetic patterns was another crucial aspect. Our teachers explored strategies for introducing these words, ensuring children can recognize and read them confidently. They created colorful word walls and used flashcards, making the learning process enjoyable and memorable.



After the training, our teachers were eager to bring their new knowledge into the classroom. At Alam Atelier Jakarta, we seamlessly integrated Jolly Phonics into our Reggio Emilia-inspired and nature-based pedagogy. Each letter sound lesson became an immersive, multi-sensory experience for the children.



Imagine a typical day in our classroom. The children gather around as the teacher introduces the sound of the letter /a/. They listen to the Jolly Phonics song and then venture outside to explore the anatomy and habitat of ants. They use magnifying glasses to observe ants closely, learning about their body parts and how they live. To further emphasize the letter /a/, the children participate in making apple crumble, blending sounds and letters while engaging in a hands-on, sensory-rich activity. Each lesson is a new adventure, filled with discovery and excitement.

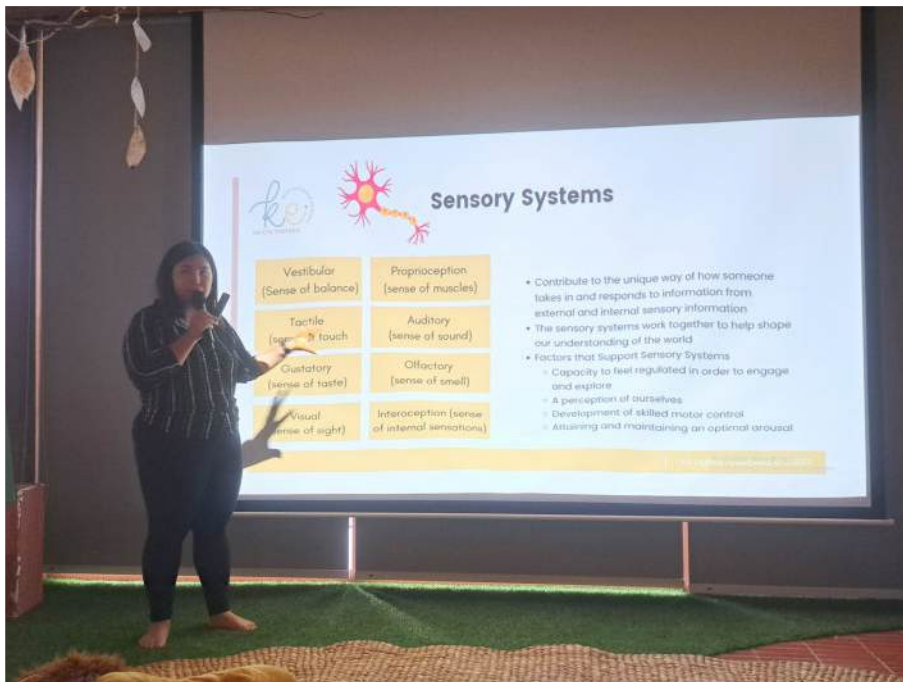
In another lesson, children might explore the sound of the letter /m/ by investigating the textures of leaves and moss. They form the letter using pebbles and practice blending sounds to make words like "mat" and "map" using natural materials. Each lesson is a new adventure, filled with discovery and excitement.

Hands-on learning and nature-based activities are vital for young children as they provide concrete experiences that make abstract concepts easier to grasp. By engaging multiple senses, children form stronger connections to the material, leading to better retention and understanding. Moreover, these activities support the development of essential life skills, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

We are excited to continue implementing Jolly Phonics in our classrooms, making literacy learning an adventure for every child. Our unique approach, grounded in the Reggio Emilia philosophy and nature-based learning, provides the best foundation for your child's educational journey. We believe that by creating an engaging and immersive learning environment, we can foster a lifelong love for learning and discovery in every child. We look forward to sharing more updates and successes with you soon!



SENSORY SYSTEM TRAINING



A Transformative Learning Experience with Ms. Endinda Krista, M.S. ED

by Ms. Merlie

We are excited to share that our recent professional development training, led by the esteemed Endinda Krista, M.S. ED, focused on the Sensory System and its vital role in early childhood education. This insightful session gave us valuable tools to better understand and tailor our classrooms to the needs of our young learners.

We delved into the eight sensory systems, which include the familiar five senses—sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell—along with vestibular (balance), proprioception (body awareness), and interoception (internal body signals). Ms. Krista highlighted how children's ability to process sensory input affects their behavior, emotions, and learning.

The session emphasized how sensory experiences shape cognitive development. We learned practical ways to integrate sensory-rich activities that enhance children's attention, memory, and problem-solving skills.



Sensory input doesn't just impact cognition; it also affects emotions. Ms. Krista explained how emotional regulation is tied to sensory processing, and how we, as teachers, can use this knowledge to create a more emotionally supportive classroom. The outcomes of the training enabled teachers to identify the unique sensory needs of each child and tailor classroom setups to effectively stimulate the eight sensory systems.

Integrate sensory activities that support cognitive, emotional, and behavioral growth. Develop strategies for creating an inclusive learning environment that benefits all children, especially those with sensory sensitivities.

This training has been a game-changer for us, equipping us with the tools to craft classrooms that not only engage the children but also nurture their overall development.

We are immensely grateful to the management for investing in our professional growth and offering us opportunities like this to better serve our pupils.

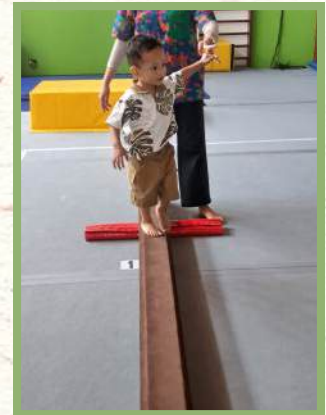


BAZGYM TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

by Ms. Lira

Before the start of Term 1, we had the privilege of welcoming Coach William from Singapore's BAZ Gymnastics, who introduced us to the fundamentals of preschool gymnastics. His presentation highlighted the core values and benefits of gymnastics for young children, alongside an in-depth overview of age-appropriate skill development. He also provided us with hands-on experience, simulating a preschool gymnastics class to demonstrate what these sessions entail and what is expected of us as teachers in supporting BAZ Gym coaches.

BAZ Gym offers a flexible program tailored to each age group, with well-defined milestones and skill progressions that align with each child's developmental pace, ensuring a positive and enriching experience for every student.



Some of the skills we have experienced so far are rotation, precision jumping, balance and grip strength. Gymnastics is a fun way to understand our bodies and its movements, and way to encourage discipline, focus, and patience as children learn to follow instructions and work towards mastering specific movements. Gymnastics is a way to build confidence in young children as they develop skills for life and interact with peers to celebrate each other's progress. These foundational skills extend beyond the gym, contributing to healthier physical development and a strong sense of self-esteem that benefits them in all areas of early childhood.



SCHOOL EVENTS



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

by Ms Emily

As part of our grand opening celebration, our pendopo was beautifully adorned with an exhibition of sustainability projects created by each class. These sculptures, representing Indonesia's iconic cultures and wildlife, were thoughtfully crafted by the children in collaboration with their teachers, using upcycled materials. The projects, which were documented over the course of two weeks, highlighted the children's creativity, fine motor skills, and growing environmental awareness through hands-on exploration and teamwork. This meaningful endeavor fostered a deeper connection to Indonesia's rich heritage and exemplified our commitment to nurturing lifelong learning.

Crawler class presents...

RECONSTRUCTING THE DIENG TEMPLES



THE BEGINNING

During Weeks 3 and 4, as part of our “Beautiful Indonesia” theme, we introduced a table provocation where the children constructed Indonesian temples using pieces of cardboard. This activity quickly **became a favourite** for both the children and their families, with excitement growing as the temples took shape. Therefore, we decided to make building these temples our sustainability project, as the steady progress of the temples beautifully mirrored **the children’s own growth in the classroom over the weeks**. Our focus was on reconstructing the Arjuna Cluster in the Dieng Temples, known as some of the **oldest and most well-preserved historical structures in Java**.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

During the first week, the children eagerly stacked cardboard squares, building the temple's foundations. We encouraged their **agency** by letting them choose the square sizes, supporting **decision-making, creativity,** and **confidence** as they took ownership of the project.



RECONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

The children and their grown-ups collaborated to build these temples, creating a wonderful **sense of community** and **shared accomplishment**



ELEPHANTS

OF INDONESIA



In Walker class, we have chosen to represent the majestic elephants of Indonesia. Like elephants, our students share remarkable qualities: both are highly intelligent, exhibit deep emotional understanding, and thrive in social environments. Just as elephants are known for their playfulness and problem-solving abilities, our students demonstrate creativity and joy in their learning. And, of course, whether it's a young elephant or a child, there's always a charming bit of wobbliness as they grow more sure-footed every day



THE JOURNEY



Recently, we embarked on an exploration of Indonesia's jungles and the incredible creatures that inhabit them, with elephants quickly becoming a class favorite. Inspired by the students' enthusiasm, we began greeting them each morning with an exciting art activity— painting a giant elephant together. Staying true to our philosophy of sustainability and reducing waste, we provided materials like scrap paper, leaves, and coconut husk for the project. The husk even doubled as the elephant's hair, adding texture and unique brushstrokes to our creation. We offered black and white paint separately, encouraging the students to mix the colors, leading to an exciting discovery—the perfect shade of grey, just like an elephant!

Together, we ventured into our garden, foraging for giant leaves to serve as the perfect elephant ears for our project. This hands-on experience not only added a natural touch to our artwork but also deepened our students' connection with nature, making the process even more meaningful and engaging.



Class: Pre Nursery - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Ella, Ms. Tiari & Ms. Chindy

Cendrawasih from Recycled Treasures



For the grand opening of Alam Atelier Jakarta, each class created an eco-friendly project using recycled materials. Our class made a Cendrawasih bird from recycled paper and cardboard. The children were introduced to pictures of the bird, learning about its colors and anatomy—its eyes, wings, and long tail—while exploring the bird's sounds.



We used natural ingredients like coffee, turmeric, and spinach to color the recycled materials, allowing the children to engage their senses by smelling and mashing the ingredients themselves. This process enhanced sensory exploration and creative expression.

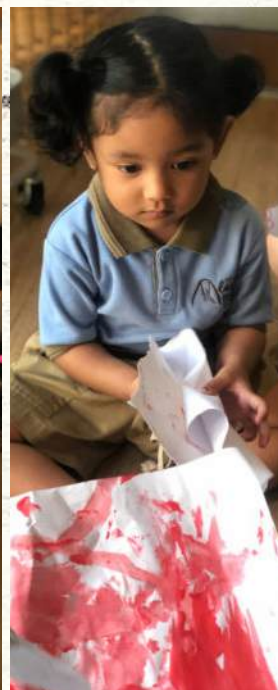


Class: Pre Nursery - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Ella, Ms. Tiari & Ms. Chindy

Cendrawasih from Recycled Treasures



As the children crumpled recycled paper to form the bird's skeleton, they strengthened their motor skills and muscles, engaging hands-on with the project. Their excitement grew as they saw the bird take shape, reflecting their sense of belonging, teamwork, and self-confidence.



Class: Pre Nursery - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Ella, Ms. Tiari & Ms. Chindy

Cendrawasih from Recycled Treasures

Once the bird was nearly complete, we revisited the anatomy, focusing on the long tail and layering colors to deepen the natural hues. Our project is now ready to be showcased, demonstrating the children's creativity, communication, and environmental awareness to our parents and community!



Class: Pre Nursery Bulan - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Bila, Ms. Yun, Ms. Yohana.

Roaring for Change: Sumatran Tiger



Pre-Nursery Bulan class's project is an upcycling project, where the children created a Sumatran tiger from recycled plastic waste to raise awareness about environmental pollution. We began by exploring pictures of the tiger, discussing its body parts, fur patterns, and why this beautiful animal is endangered. The children were deeply engaged, especially when they learned about pollution and deforestation, sparking imaginative conversations like, "We need to call a garbage truck and a fire truck!" This discussion encouraged their sense of responsibility and care for the environment, fostering a strong sense of belonging and empathy.

The project unfolded with hands-on activities where the children practiced essential skills such as fine motor control, teamwork, and creativity. To start, they used paper mâché to shape the tiger's head, carefully molding the paper and building their pincer grip in the process.



Class: Pre Nursery Bulan - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Bila, Ms. Yun, Ms. Yohana.

Roaring for Change: Sumatran Tiger

Once the tiger's head was formed and dried, the children eagerly painted it in bright orange tones, inspired by the real tiger they had observed in photos.



Class: Pre Nursery Bulan - Grand Opening 2024
Teachers: Ms. Bila, Ms. Yun, Ms. Yohana.

Roaring for Change: Sumatran Tiger

For the body, we collected plastic waste together with families and then we fill an orange net to form the tiger's body. This process involved teamwork, problem-solving, and early math concepts as they worked together to measure and balance the materials. Finally, the children wrapped black plastic around the tiger, creating stripes and adding the finishing touches with excitement and pride.



This meaningful project beautifully combined creativity, environmental awareness, and life skills. It allowed the children to experience firsthand the value of recycling and caring for the world around them. We were proud to present their tiger at the grand opening of Alam Atelier Jakarta, showcasing their effort as a powerful symbol of upcycling and environmental stewardship.

Class: Nursery - Grand Opening 2024

Teachers: Ms. Charm and Ms. Bea

Ecobrick Turtle



In this nursery class activity, we started by learning about turtles through the story "Emerald: The Green Turtle's Tale." The children enjoyed discovering how turtles live, what they eat, and how they move. We observed real turtles both in the classroom and outdoors by the pond. This helped the kids understand the different parts of a turtle's body and their natural habitat. To deepen their understanding, we discussed the importance of protecting turtles and watched a short video about why turtles are becoming endangered.



Next, the class participated in a creative project to make ecobrick turtles. Using plastic bottles and dried leaves, the children crafted small baby turtles. For the larger sea turtles, they filled plastic bottles with used plastic to create ecobricks. They also twisted black plastic to form the turtle's flippers and head. This activity not only helped the children learn about **recycling and protecting the environment** but also allowed them to use their **creativity to build something meaningful**. Through this hands-on project, the kids learned about the **importance of reducing plastic waste and how they can contribute to saving turtles and other wildlife**.



Class: Nursery - Grand Opening 2024

Teachers: Ms. Charm and Ms. Bea

Ecobrick Turtle



Class: Kinder & Prep - Grand Opening

Teachers: Ms. Merlie, Ms. Marsya, and Ms. Ayu

Upcycled Marvels: Crafting Komodo from Waste to Wonder

Our friends in Kinder and Prep excitedly took part in this event. The children made a **Komodo dragon** from discarded paper products such as cardboard, newspaper, and other paper-based materials.

The idea of making komodo was inspired from our children's interest in komodo and coastal areas. It began when one of our friends shared his experience of seeing a Komodo dragon in Labuan Bajo on the first day of school, inviting his classmates to learn about this prehistoric creature that still lives today. Their eyes lit up when they heard the word "prehistoric," as it reminded them of something they love most: dinosaurs.

We rolled discarded paper products from our school to make the foundation of komodo with our hands which invited them to sharpen fine motor skills development and foster teamwork among peers. With the principle of Reggio Emilia approach, our friends believe in "Environment is a third teacher", they found unused bubble wrap as a treasure since its surface seems the closest to the real komodo's skin then coloured it with natural ingredients, such as coffee. This process enhanced their creative expression.



Class: Kinder & Prep - Grand Opening
Teachers: Ms. Merlie, Ms. Marsya, and Ms. Ayu

Crafting Komodo from Waste to Wonder



Our journey to craft Komodo from **waste to wonder** was started by collectively gathering the scattered paper and plastic we had from our house and school. Then, the children put the waste into an unused bottle so we can have some eco bricks for our komodo's legs. Our project was strengthened by their sense of belonging and a supportive community among Alam Atelier Jakarta's family.



Class: Kinder & Prep - Grand Opening
Teachers: Ms. Merlie, Ms. Marsya, and Ms. Ayu

Crafting Komodo from Waste to Wonder

Then, our friends rolled unused paper then glued that together onto the skeleton of Komodo's project. They put their interpretation of Komodo's anatomy through this session to make their komodo as fierce as possible with four legs and a solid body. Once the Komodo was almost complete as we expected since it was already wrapped with bubble wrap to provide the illusion of komodo's skin, our friends layered the surface with natural ingredients, such as coffee.



Our friends' sparkly eyes lit up once they saw our project is now ready to be showcased, highlighting the children's creativity, collaboration, and commitment to environmental sustainability to our community.



GRAND OPENING

ALAM ATELIER JAKARTA

by Ms Emily



On the 21st of September, 2024, we proudly celebrated the grand opening of Alam Atelier, marking a significant milestone in our journey. To commemorate this special occasion, we welcomed media representatives along with close friends and relatives of the school owners, offering them a glimpse into our unique approach to early childhood education and our strong commitment to sustainability. One of the highlights of the event was a delightful trunk show, featuring our children dressed in outfits and accessories made from upcycled materials, showcasing our dedication to fostering environmental awareness through creative and meaningful projects.



We were also touched to hear the heartfelt testimonies from families who shared how Alam Atelier has positively impacted their children's development. Many expressed that Alam has nurtured their children's confidence, creativity, and love for learning, while also highlighting the importance of outdoor play in promoting their children's gross motor development and self-assurance. The day's activities, thoughtfully prepared by our teachers, offered guests a chance to experience our learning environment firsthand. From crafting sun catchers with recycled materials to enjoying a retelling of **The Tortoise and the Hare** in the light and shadow room, drawing sunflowers observed under a microscope in the atelier, and navigating an obstacle course in the gym, guests experienced the engaging, warm, and creative atmosphere that defines Alam Atelier.

CHARACTER FORMATION FRIDAY HIGHLIGHT

by Ms. Tiari

CFF - Independence - August 16th

On August 16th, for our Independence Day celebration, Djiwa and Ms. Nadine performed the song "Hari Merdeka" together, aligning beautifully with our Character Formation Friday theme of "Independence." We also enjoyed traditional games to commemorate Indonesia's Independence Day.



CFF - Independence - August 30th

At the end of the month, Ms. Puti (Saka's mom) joined us as our parent volunteer. In line with our theme of **"Independence"**, we engaged in a cooking experience to promote life skills and self-sufficiency. We believe that involving parents in these activities enhances the learning experience and strengthens family bonds.



CFF - Honesty - September 20th

For Character Formation Friday in September, Ms. Devina (Eleanor's mom) served as our parent volunteer. Aligned with this month's theme of "**Honesty**", we painted on white fabric using colors made from natural ingredients. The children mashed the raw ingredients with a mortar and pestle before splashing the vibrant colors onto the fabric.

Thank you, parents, for your participation this term! We look forward to your continued support next term!



Last Day of School (Animal Dress Up Day)

CFF - Kindness - October 11th



Last Day of School (Animal Dress Up Day)

CFF - Kindness - October 11th



UNDERWATER EXPLORERS AT SEA WORLD

by Ms. Charm



On September 27, 2024, Pre-N, Nursery, Kinder and Prep went on an exciting field trip to Sea World Ancol. We all rode a bus together, and the children had a wonderful time chatting and singing during the ride. Their excitement grew as we approached the aquarium, and they could hardly wait to see all the amazing sea creatures!

Once we arrived, the children were amazed by the large aquariums filled with colorful fish, sharks, and other marine animals. They were in awe as they entered a moving tunnel and saw manta rays, giant sea turtles, sharks, puffer fish, and many other marine creatures. They had the chance to touch starfish and learn about sea turtles while watching a short film. It was wonderful to see their faces light up with curiosity as they discovered the turtle's life cycle and how it survives against predators.

In addition to exploring the exhibits, the children were encouraged to color drawings of different sea creatures. They put a lot of creativity into their artwork, and it was heartwarming to see each piece displayed on the big screen for everyone to admire. This activity allowed the children to express themselves while reinforcing their understanding of the sea creatures they learned about.

Overall, the field trip to Sea World Ancol was a fantastic experience. The children not only had fun but also learned valuable lessons about marine life and the importance of ocean conservation. They developed a sense of curiosity and appreciation for nature, which aligns with our goal of fostering lifelong learning and a love for the environment.







Proudly Presented by Alam Atelier Jakarta

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