

# La Petite Ecole

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“Do you remember why the cherry trees were covered up?” (children answer)

“Do you think an animal would eat these?” (show tiny grapes and apples)

Sometimes animals make better decision than we do, don't they?

Sometimes it's hard for us to wait for things, whether it's our birthday, a flower to grow, a fruit to ripen or a baby to be born. But do you know what? It's much better for the world and for us, when we learn to wait for things. Do you remember the sunflower seeds we planted in April? Well, they did grow, and that was exciting, but have we seen any sunflowers yet? No! Not yet, we still have to wait! And what would happen if we picked them now? That's right, the flowers would never grow.

Alyssa, you are like a lovely Colorado Peach, Gabrielle, you love cherries... Soren, you are more exotic, like a coconut... Warren, you can be a banana; Marius, you are a nice juicy apple, and Iyanla, you're a bunch of grapes. All of these fruit don't taste good if we eat them before they are ripe, right? You are all growing nice and strong, and all that you learned this past year is very important in helping you grow up! Just like sunshine, rain and time for the fruit and the flowers!

Karin said something interesting the other day: American doctors seem to be in such a hurry to deliver babies... OK, time to come out! Didn't they learn that babies are usually very very good at deciding when it's time for them to be born? The society we live in is becoming more and more one of convenience rather than a group of people linked to the nature that surrounds us. We don't need stars any more to tell us where to go, and we certainly have no sheep in our backyard to grow their wool in order to make our clothes! When we need something, we jump into our cars and head to the store or to our closets, and when we're lost, thank goodness for the GPS! Though some of us still rely on the front range mountains for our sense of direction! ☺

But there are some things that our modern society can't speed up yet, and that is the growth process that all children go through. Each one of our children is different, peach, cherry, coconut, banana, apple and grape, and each one will go through the developmental stages at his/her own pace. Sometimes it may seem to take forever, but then you blink, and your baby is smiling at you, and then crawling, walking, talking, singing, counting, reading... It goes by so fast, so let's learn to savor each moment, even the times when it may seem like the record is stuck! ☺

It has been such a privilege for me to witness firsthand many of your children's growth leaps. From notable physical changes to social and intellectual ones. What may have been difficult for them at the beginning of the school year has suddenly becomes effortless and achievable. The time was right. Each child has progressed and matured over the past year, and today we are here to celebrate that together.

I would like to thank you children for helping me learn 2 things this year. Can you think of what they are? It may be a little bit complicated, but I think your mommies and daddies will understand what I am trying to say. First, allow Nature to take its course. That means that things and people may not always be ready when I would want them to be and I have had to learn to be patient and wait. The second thing is: With patience and observation comes better understanding. Again, and this is for all of us, whether we are studying ants or children: With patience and observation comes better understanding.

So, once again, congratulations to our Petits Ecoliers on their progress and achievements over this past year. Bravo! We are happy and blessed to be a part of your lives.