



Remember to sign your child in and out daily-required by DHS. Thank you-



Denise Buthion
 Director
 (405) 842-5325
 dbuthion@nicholshillsumc.org



Quality childcare is not expensive. It is priceless. . .

THE LEARNING CENTER

Our mission is *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

2017-18 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Last day of fall session	December 22
Christmas Break-TLC closed	December 25-Jan. 1
First day of spring session 2018	January 2
Dr. MLK Birthday-TLC closed	January 15
Valentine Parties	February 14
Spring Break-TLC closed	March 12-16
Summer session enrollment	March 19-23
Good Friday-TLC closed	March 30
Muffins for Moms	May 14
Last day of spring session	May 26
Memorial Day-TLC closed	May 28-June 1
First day of summer session	June 4
Donuts for Dads	June 18
Fall session enrollment	June 25-29
Independence Day-TLC closed	July 4
Last day of summer session	July 27
TLC summer break-TLC closed	July 30-August 3
First day of fall session	August 6

Christmas Music Program

Our annual Christmas Music Program will be held December 13. All classes will participate (yes even the Cubs!) Plan to be here at 10 a.m. The program may last only twenty minutes and then refreshments will be served.



Should you wish to dress your child in holiday clothing or Christmas colors that would be nice (but not required.) Plan to join us for the brief demonstration of the children's accomplishments thus far in the fall session. Invite the grandparents, neighbors, friends and other family members, too. See you there!



Weekly Specials Fall 2017

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Amazing Athletes 10 Tippi Toes Dance* 10:30	Art Lessons 10 & 2:30 Children's Chapel 2:45 (Children 18 mos. & older in art)	Children's Chapel 9:45 Munchkin Music 10 (Everyone does music)	Amazing Athletes 10 Children's Chapel 2:45	Amazing Athletes (Children 18 mos. and older participate in this)
*cost extra \$35 monthly	Chapel is for 3 yrs & up	Chapel for 3 yrs & up	Chapel for 3 yrs & up	





Screen Time and Brain

"Educational apps and TV shows are great ways for children to sharpen their developing brains and hone their communication skills—not to mention the break these gadgets provide harried parents. But tread carefully: A number of troubling studies connect delayed cognitive development in kids with extended exposure to electronic media," writes Liraz Margalit, PhD, in a *Psychology Today* article.

Margalit explains that "parents who jump to screen time in a bid to give their kids an educational edge may actually be doing significantly more harm than good—and they need to dole out future screen time in an age-appropriate matter...When a young child spends too much time in front of a screen and not enough getting required stimuli from the real world, her development becomes stunted...Much of the issue lies with the fact that what makes tablets and iPhones so great—dozens of stimuli at your fingertips, and the ability to process multiple actions simultaneously—is exactly what young brains do not need.

"Tablets are the ultimate shortcut tools: Unlike a mother reading a story to a child, for example, a smartphone-told story spoon-feeds images, words, and pictures all at once to a young reader. Rather than having to take the time to process a mother's voice into words...kids who follow stories on their smartphones get lazy. The device does the thinking for them, and as a result, their own cognitive muscles remain weak."

Source: "[What Screen Time Can Really Do to Kids' Brains.](#)" by Liraz Margalit, PhD., *Psychology Today*, April 17, 2016

Recycle plastic bags

The Learning Center uses many plastic bags for soiled clothing or diapers. If you shop and have extra plastic bags we would love to take them off your hands. Bring one – bring a bunch. We appreciate them all. Thanks!



Absences from School



We understand that people will miss school from time to time, but it helps us to know if you don't plan to attend. Call and let us know if your child is ill so we may let other families know too. Families benefit from the extra days available when we know they will be available. Please help us out.

Drop-In Charges Due

The next time you need to "drop in" (a day you don't normally attend) we will need the tuition to be paid at that time. All accounts must be paid **in full by the end of the month**. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy. Thank you!

DANGER in the Parking Lot!



Cars have been racing through our parking lot at speeds exceeding 20 miles per hour and this is a problem.

Please remember that young children are at risk with speeding cars in the parking lot. We appreciate everyone remembering that there is precious cargo every where. SLOW it down. . .

"A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed you are for what you have."

-Unknown



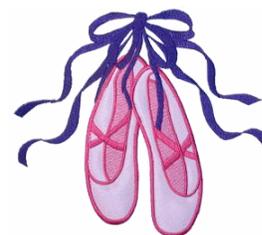
HeartMath



Tippi Toes



Tippi Toes offers positive, fun dance classes for girls and boys ages 1.5 – 6 years-old! Our mission: to develop a love of dancing in children by creating a positive experience that promotes healthy living habits, helps build self-confidence, and a love for others. Classes at TLC are on Mondays from 10:30-10:55 a.m. Tuition is \$35 per month. To enroll, please go to www.tippitoesdance.com/oklahoma-city and follow the instructions to enroll!



Amazing Athletes



Amazing Athletes is an introduction into the basic fundamentals and mechanics of nine different sports and focuses on self-confidence, practicing teamwork, and improving seven key areas of motor development. Young children need guidance in building their balance, agility and strength training within a non-competitive, learning-based environment. Each class focuses on two different sports and incorporates activities proven to increase children's overall cardiovascular fitness, muscle tone, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and more! Teaching children life skills through sports is FUN! Classes are held on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, too. The program is for Monkeys, Zebras, Jaguars and Cheetahs. This program is a year-round activity. Enjoy your new Amazing Athletes' shirts!

Music Classes

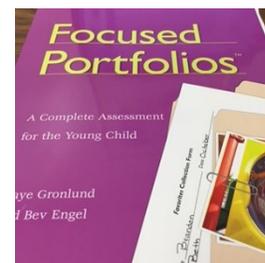


Your monthly tuition also includes Music class on Wednesdays. Each week we have Miss Andrea from Munchkin Music bring her expertise to the Cubs (infants) through Cheetahs. All of the children enjoy their music time and look forward to it. We have a Christmas Music Program scheduled **December 13** to share what the children have learned. Each month we send out songs, finger plays and key concepts that Andrea is working on with the children. Watch for this information each month in an email. Drop by to see the children in action. It is quite fun!

Focused Portfolios

Our staff uses a process of documentation called "Focused Portfolios" to record children's growth and development. Through photographs, anecdotes and children's work samples, teachers put together a visual account of each child's accomplishments. This process recognizes and celebrates that all children develop at different rates and with various strengths. Collections are completed in fall and spring and are kept in a folder for the year, after which the portfolio becomes a keepsake for the child and family. This collection is a representation of your child as an individual with distinct interests, background, skills and desires. We will offer family conferences twice a year to share these special collections and to celebrate the accomplishments of your child. Families are invited to participate in this portfolio collection process in whichever special way you choose. Here are some suggestions:

- ⇒ Create a photo collage of your immediate or extended family
- ⇒ Write about a special family event or trip and include a photo
- ⇒ Share how your child's name was selected
- ⇒ Describe a family hobby or typical weekend past time



Monthly Fire Drill



Our last fire drill was conducted November 13, in the afternoon. The children exited the building in less than two minutes. They all go straight to the BIG outdoor playground. Teachers take attendance and talk to the children about the process so they can learn about fire safety. Each class practices going to our tornado shelter (downstairs) monthly as well. Make sure you practice what to do at home, too.

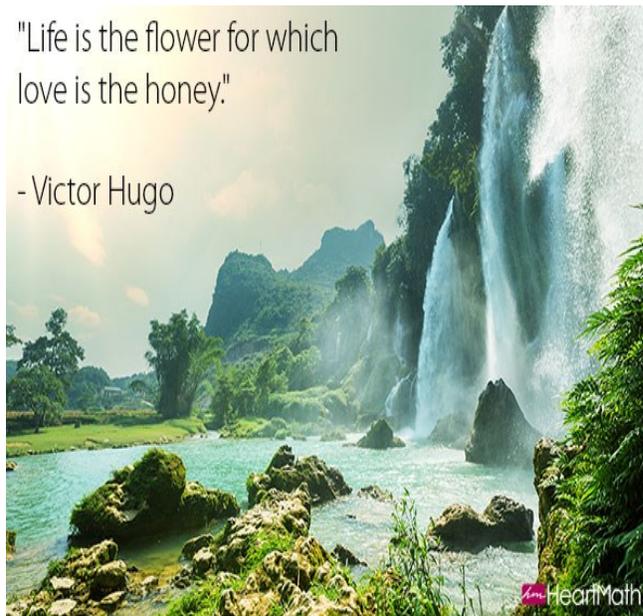
Art Classes

Our art instructor, Ms. Heather, will discontinue her lessons with TLC beginning in December. She is going to work full-time at the OKC Museum of Art. Their gain is our loss. We are actively pursuing another teacher who has her vision and expertise with young children. We will keep you posted on this transition. Every one will miss Ms. Heather but her little boy will continue with TLC so we will get to see her. We wish her well in her extended work at OKC MOA. She leaves very large shoes to be filled.



"Life is the flower for which love is the honey."

- Victor Hugo



Children's Chapel Time

Our children are enjoying their time learning about God in our Sanctuary on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have a prayer, song and quick Bible story. As part of the Nichols Hills United Methodist Church's mission we are committed to leading children into faith for the transformation of the world. Tuesdays and Thursdays our chapel time is 2:45-3 p.m. and Wednesdays we have chapel 9:45-10 a.m. Families



are welcome.



Services at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church

We invite all families to our church services on Sundays. There is an 8:30 a.m. and a 10:50 a.m. service. Sunday school is typically 9:45 to 10:30. Child care is available. Our music, choir and sermons are very much the antidote for a hectic life. Please join us. For more information call the church 842-1486.

IMMUNIZATIONS must be kept current. Please bring an updated shot record to school. Thank you!



December Birthdays

Mila King	December 2
Ben McBride	December 5
Eleanor McBride	December 5
Denise Buthion*	December 10
Norah Johnson	December 13
Finley Pettigrew	December 15
Pablo Pinzon IV	December 15
Finley Lewis	December 17
Teddy Forsythe	December 29



*indicates staff member



December Afternoon Snacks 2017

FYI: PM snacks are provided by TLC AM snacks by families Except for Cubs				1 Cheerios & Craisins
4 Cereal Bars & Apple Juice	5 Goldfish & Fruit cups	6 Animal Crackers & Yogurt dip	7 Honey Pretzels & Pickles	8 Fruit snacks & Nilla Wafers
11 Pudding Cups & Graham Crackers	12 Wheat Thins & Pickles	13 Carrots & Ranch Dip	16 Pepperoni & Ritz Crackers	17 Veggie Straws & Apple Juice
18 American Cheese & Honey Pretzels	19 Granola Bar & Juice	20 Chex Mix & Mandarin Oranges	21 Applesauce & Cheese cubes	22 Christmas Parties 1:45
25 	26 Closed all week->	27 	28 	29 

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will not meet in December. This group typically meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Parlor at **2 p.m.** Any family members who wish to participate are welcome to join us. The PAC serves as feedback for the management team, helps to distribute information, assist with special celebrations and so on. We would welcome your input as to how to involve families in our program or any other suggestions for improvements. So far the communication has improved with your help. Your involvement is always appreciated! The following people who represent the classrooms are:



- Cubs—Jamie Johnson
- Pandas—Marina Williams
- Monkeys—Jessica Morey
- Zebras—Mary Fitch
- Jaguars—Annette Boyd

Classroom Orientations

Children who are moving up to the next classroom will have group orientations. If you are not sure about which class your child is moving to just ask your current teachers or Denise. This will help us all to have a smoother transition to 2018.

CURRENT CLASS IN CAPS —>

- CUBS moving to Pandas Dec. 11 @ 2:30
- PANDAS moving to Monkeys Dec. 11 @ 2:30
- MONKEYS moving to Zebras Dec. 12 @ 4
- ZEBRAS moving to Jaguars Dec. 12 @ 4
- JAGUARS moving to Cheetahs Dec. 13 @ 2:30

If you cannot make these times let us know and we will introduce you to the next classroom teachers and show you around.





THE LEARNING CENTER

Tuition Schedule effective August 7, 2017

Monthly Tuition

(Two day minimum, all ages)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
\$122	\$155	\$122	\$155	\$122

Examples: Monday, Wednesday, Friday = \$366
Tuesday, Thursday = \$310
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday = \$676
Any combination of days based on availability.

Other Fees:

- Enrollment Fee (per session) \$75 - 1st child; \$15 - less each additional child
- Supply Fee Included in enrollment fee.
- Drop In Rate \$35 per day Monday / Wednesday / Friday
\$45 per day Tuesday /Thursday (upon availability)
- Late Pick Up \$1 per minute, per child.
- Returned Check Fee \$25

HOLIDAY SURPRISES



On the website, Your Modern Family, Becky Mansfield lists 50 of her favorite **non-toy** children's gifts. Here's a sampling:

- "Make them a photo album of memories from the year (use an album where it has room for you to write and share why you loved that moment)
- Tickets to an event
- Classes at a local gym, art studio, dance studio, soccer clinic...
- A gift certificate for books – check out Scholastic and order a gift card for a gift of education
- Recipe cards and ingredients (Make cookies or even playdough)"

Source: "[Non-Toy Gifts for Kids](#)," by Becky Mansfield, yourmodernfamily.com

