



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



## THE LEARNING CENTER

### Management Team

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Good Friday ( <i>TLC closed</i> )	April 3
Show & Sing	April 29
Teacher Appreciation Week	May 4-8
Muffins for Moms	May 8
Celebration of Learning	May 14
Last Day of Spring Session	May 22
Summer Break ( <i>TLC closed</i> )	May 25-29
Summer Session begins	June 1
First Day of Summer Session	June 1

### April Birthdays

<b>Janelle Burris*</b>	<b>4/8</b>
<b>Roman Reust</b>	<b>4/9</b>
<b>Avery Smith</b>	<b>4/13</b>
<b>Harrison Milum</b>	<b>4/16</b>
<b>Charlie Winland</b>	<b>4/19</b>
<b>Louis Fraley</b>	<b>4/20</b>
<b>Julian Saak</b>	<b>4/21</b>
<b>Logan Shults</b>	<b>4/24</b>
<b>Mason Magness</b>	<b>4/30</b>

\* denotes staff member

### SPRING PHOTOS FOR CHILDREN

Larch Family Photography will photograph our children **April 2**. This is a Thursday. If you would like your child to be photographed and don't usually come on that day you may come by and get them taken. No obligation to buy pictures if you don't like them, although that never happens. A percentage of sales does come back to TLC.



Tax Statements available upon request. We have your amount paid from August to December. Let us know if you would like a statement. Takes just a second to receive one-



## Tippi Toes

Tippi Toes Dance Company is our dance program at TLC. Children, ages two and older, are eligible to participate in this elective activity. Dance promotes self-confidence and healthy habits! Each Monday our dance instructor, Miss Elyse, gathers the children for a 25 minute lesson. There will be a spring recital held for families and friends to see the unfolding development of our children. You are welcome to try a class for free before enrolling. It is \$35 a month per child. Boys and girls enjoy creative movement. We will continue this program through the summer.

## 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, strength training within a non-competitive, learning-based environment. Each class will focus on two different sports and incorporate activities proven to increase children's overall cardiovascular fitness, muscle tone, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and more! Teaching children life skills through sports. FUN! Classes are \$40 a month and lessons are each Thursday and now a class on Fridays, too. This program will continue through the summer.



Each year our National Association for the Education of Young Children ( naeyc) highlights the need for quality childcare in our country. This year the week is celebrated April 13-17. We will have special activities for the children, families and staff. Watch for more specific details soon.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Learning Center (TLC) will have a book fair April 20-24. Many books will be displayed for immediate purchase at reasonable prices. There are hard and soft copies of popular books. Make sure to plan time to shop with your child for great books at home. TLC staff will have wish lists of books they want for their classrooms. A portion of the sales does benefit TLC, too. You won't want to miss this great time for books.

## Monthly Fire Drill



The last fire drill was held on March 12. We alternate our drills from month to month with one in the morning and the next in the afternoon. The children exited the building in less than one minute. Excellent job everyone! We practiced our quarterly tornado drill March 30.

Our basement has a large area with ping pong and pool tables, kitchen, two restrooms and two smaller classrooms that make it perfect for our infants and toddlers. Each classroom has a tornado bag with diapers, wipes and any special items for children that might be needed. Practice makes perfect-

*You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.*  
-Abraham Lincoln

## Show and Sing



Join us April 29 as each of our classes demonstrate their musical skills. Miss Andrea visits the Cubs (infants) through the Jaguars (preschool) classrooms. Families are welcome to watch the lessons and see their children work with musical instruments, sing songs and do finger plays. Specific class times will be given at a later date. Mark your calendar!



## Curriculum News

Our youngest children (Cubs, Pandas, Monkeys and Zebras) will explore Fascinating Flowers and Weather Watching for the month of April. Some of the key concepts will be the language used when talking about the weather and flowers, opposites such as wet and dry, the colors blue and yellow and oval shapes. The children will make some Oval Toast and sing songs related to weather and flowers. Here are the words to “**UP Pop the Flowers**”, which is sung to “Pop Goes the Weasel.”

We plant some seed in the dirt.

*(pretend to plant seeds.)*

The rain falls in a shower. *(Make rain with fingers.)*

The sun comes out and what do you know?

*(crouch down.)*

Up pop the flowers!

*(pop up!)*

Here are some age appropriate books for these themes:

*Elmer's Weather* by David McKee

*Fuzzy Yellow Ducklings* by Matthew Van Fleet

*Blue Sky* by Audrey Wood

*Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Our Jaguar class will also focus on Spring Has Sprung and Up and Away. They plan to talk about the many changes in nature during the spring. The rain prepares the soil for new life, plants grow from seeds and bulbs, and baby birds are hatched from their shells. The children will enjoy hands-on experiences during this lively theme. The second focus, Up and Away, studies all the things that fly such as airplanes, balloons, rockets and kites. Some books that support these themes are:

*Spring Is Here* by Taro Gomi

*When Spring Comes* by Robert Maass

*Floating in Space* by Franklyn M. Branley

*Lisa's Airplane Trip* by Anne Gutman



## SAFE RISK TAKING

In the introduction of her article, "[The Role of Risk in Play and Learning](#)," in the Community Playthings online magazine, **Collage**, Joan Almon observes...

"Real play means taking risks — physical, social, and even cognitive. Children are constantly trying out new things and learning a great deal in the process. They love to move from adventure to adventure. They face the risk of mistakes and even of injuries, but that does not deter children. They embrace life, play, and risk with gusto, and they are prepared for a certain amount of bumps and bruises while growing up. Even a broken bone doesn't slow them down for long. Fortunately, they heal fast.

"Although no one wants to see a child injured, creating an environment that is **overly** safe creates a different kind of danger for them. Growing up in a risk-averse society, such as we currently have, means children are not able to practice risk-assessment, which enables them to match their skills with the demands of the environment. As a result, many children have become very timid and are reluctant to take risks. At the opposite extreme, many have difficulty reading the situations they face and take foolhardy risks, repeatedly landing in trouble."

## TOILET LEARNING WORKSHOP

Do you know how many steps it takes to learn about toileting independently? Turns out there are a lot. Children between 2 and 3 years old become interested in the "potty" and it is typically a good time to begin the steps. Warm weather helps too. The less clothes that children have to remove in order to eliminate the better. Let's have a dialogue about the many considerations we must all make when beginning this important life skill. We will have a workshop for families interested in the process April 15, 2:45-3:30 p.m. Join us in the Parlor. Childcare will be provided-just let us know you are coming. Thanks!



**A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.**

**-Chinese Proverb**

## DONATION REQUESTED

Classrooms are needing bath or beach towels. Any condition or colors are fine. Bring us your old towels to be put to good use. Thank you-



## ~APRIL 2015~

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Strawberries & yogurt	2 Graham crackers & apple slices	3 Good Friday TLC CLOSED
6 Cheese puffs & water	7 Turkey & cheese	8 Granola bars & water	9 Fruit cup & water	10 Animal crackers & water
13 Veggie straws & water	14 Orange slices & water	15 Cheese & crackers	16 Nilla Wafers & Pudding	17 Chex mix & water
20 Goldfish & water	21 Bananas & crackers	22 Fruit snack & water	23 Jello fruit cup & water	24 Cheese crackers & water
27 Cereal bars & water	28 Animal crackers & water	29 Yogurt & water	30 Turkey & crackers water	

**HAPPY  
EASTER**

### Holy Week at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church



April 2, Thursday Matzo Ball Soup Dinner at 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 p.m.

This service will conclude with Holy Communion and the stripping of the sanctuary as Jesus is taken into custody by the Roman soldiers.

April 3, Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Darkness at 6:30 p.m.

We will remember our Lord's passion and death on the cross.

April 5, Easter Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Family Breakfast at 9:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt for our children at 10:15 a.m.

