



The Learning Center of Dr. Phillips PARENT NEWSLETTER - FALL 2007

Emily got an address book from Grandma and so she was filling out her information the other day (because you always need to have your own info in your address book) and was asking what her work number was. Mom explained that you don't have a work number unless you have a job. The following night was trash night and so Mom asked Emily to start gathering up the trash and got the 6 year old response of "how come" and the parental response of "because it's your job" to which she replied "then how come I don't have a work number?"

While the story is priceless, the child is showing how children think about and understand the world around them. That is known as Cognitive Development, a domain that addresses the competencies of mathematical, social and scientific thinking. We are really exploring the latter when we introduced the scientific method in the projects worked on by the 4 and 5 year old children, this school year. We are looking forward to explore many projects from the 2 year old to the 5 year old classroom.

We had a wonderful summer with fascinating projects and celebrations. Speaking of which, the September 21st Barbeque was very successful and everyone had lots of fun. We have documented our calendar of events, now available at the office. We are starting the end of year celebrations with a spectacular Halloween parade, starring your children truly. The Thanksgiving Feast and Winter Festivities are right around the corner, believe it or not.

While our children will also be working hard through the holiday season, the TLC Parents Association (*TPA*) is forming with *Ms. Rhonda Kucharsky*, president and treasurer, *Ms. Donna Simonetta*, vice-president, *Ms. Melinda Lis*, secretary and with many parents who are members at large. We encourage you to please join us at the monthly meetings (see flyer for the next meeting) and make a difference in the life and education of your child.

We wish you a wonderful, fun and safe holiday season and as always, we thank you for sharing your children with us.

Anne-Marie Boveri Schlemmer



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STUDENT ASSESSMENTS AND CONFERENCES

We are completing our children's assessments and are scheduling feedback sessions, one-on-one with parents. We perform level 1 testing and are not qualified to perform level 2 testing. In cases when we think your child needs further testing in speech or behavior, we will recommend a more comprehensive test be done. To that end, we are bringing Collaborative Function to perform level 2 testing at TLC and facilitate the testing process for you and your child. You are not obligated to further test your child or have the test performed by Collaborative Functions. It is your decision. We are just making a recommendation when we suggest further testing and then make it easier for you to have your child tested, should you decide to do so.

COOKIE DOUGH SALE BEGINS on 10/29/07.

Have you ever kept cookie dough tubs in the refrigerator instead of the freezer, just in case you need a fresh batch of cookies? Have you ever eaten cookie dough before they reach the oven? Have you ever eaten all the cookies in the world and not gain one ounce of fat? ☺ If you answered yes to the first 2 questions and no to the 3rd one, then you certainly can indulge in the Classic Cookie Dough. They are delicious and will save you a lot of work this holiday season. They are also nice holiday gifts that you know will not be returned. They can be sold at your work location as well as to your family members. This is a small fund raiser that will allow TLC to buy more T-shirts and scrubs for the teachers. Thank you for participating. PS: The weigh gain can be set off by the exercises you will get from the holiday shopping. ☺

VPK - 2008 CALENDAR REVISIONS

The VPK program is under way. The school year calendar has been revised for February, March, April and May of 2008 to complete sooner than June 2008. Based on numerous comments made since the start of VPK, we have agreed to move the end of the program to May 23, 2007. The changes are being reviewed by the Early Coalition and will be posted by October 26 on the parents' board at the entrance.



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DINNER A' FARE FUND RAISER

Imagine having the time to prepare delicious, healthy meals for your family without spending your days in the kitchen ... and supporting TLC at the same time. TLC has teamed with the Dinner A' Fare for a fund raiser to take place early November.

The Dinner A' Fare provides the recipes, ingredients and containers needed to prepare gourmet, children-friendly dinners. In just 2 hours you can make 12 meals to take home and place in your freezer. This is a fun activity you can do with family members or friends. The offer is extended to others outside the TLC family. So please look for more advertisement at school coming out this week.

INSTRUCTIVE DISCIPLINE.

Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment. Jim Rohn.

In his article "Instructive Discipline Is Built On Understanding", David Elkind differentiates between discipline as "training that develops self control, character or orderliness, and efficiency" and discipline as "treatment that corrects and punishes."

These definitions, he explains, start from two quite different conceptions of the child and of childrearing. The first begins with the idea that children are born neither social nor anti-social and have to be trained to acquire the rules and routines of healthy interpersonal exchange. In contrast, the other definition starts with the idea that children come into the world with anti-social predispositions that have to be extinguished. One idea of childrearing and discipline is therefore "instructive"; it is a matter of teaching children social skills and attitudes. The other is "punitive", a matter of "stamping out misbehavior through punishment." The difference in how we start approaching discipline is important as it determines how we acknowledge and treat "misbehavior". It can be "an opportunity for instruction" or "a teaching moment" as opposed to a given set of consequences that are to suppress the "misbehavior" but do not necessarily provide an "acceptable possibility" for the child. Instructive discipline does not provide "one answer fits all" but is rather adjusted to respond appropriately to the age of the child.



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TLC PARENTS ASSOCIATION - TPA

Many thanks to the TPA of 2006-2007. It was a wonderful year and quite a bit was accomplished. If you are interested in being part of the 2007-2008 TPA, please do not hesitate to contact Melinda Lis by providing your name and telephone number in the TPA box located next to the white gate at the entrance area. No participation is too small. There are positions open on the board and members-at-large are always needed. All parents are invited to the TPA monthly meetings. **Please look for the meeting announcement flyer at the front office or entrance door. THANK YOU!!!**

DONATIONS

We wanted to thank the many parents who have donated toys, books and clothing to our school during the year. You have been so generous! Thank you. Here are a few things to take into consideration when you are donating clothing and toys:

- ❖ Clothes: T-Shirts, shorts, socks, underwear, long pants and sneakers are appropriate. Dresses, sandals, knits, heavy jackets are not.
- ❖ Book & Toys: age appropriate only - from 2 to 5 years old. If it is a unique toy and if children will fight over it please don't bring it. If you are not sure your donation can be accepted, please check with the office before you bring the object in.

CELEBRATING

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| ❖ <i>Classic Cookie Dough Sales begins</i> | <i>Oct. 29</i> |
| ❖ <i>Halloween celebration and costume parade</i> | <i>Oct. 31</i> |
| ❖ <i>Winter Break Registration begins</i> | <i>Nov. 12</i> |
| ❖ <i>Thanksgiving Feast for children</i> | <i>Nov. 20</i> |
| ❖ TLC will be closed for Thanksgiving | Nov. 22 & 23 |
| ❖ <i>Winter Wonderland & 2007 grads Alumni reunion</i> | <i>Dec. 11</i> |
| ❖ <i>Santa Claus visits TLC</i> | <i>Dec. 21</i> |
| ❖ TLC will be closed for Christmas | Dec. 25 |
| ❖ TLC will be closed for New Year's day | Jan. 1, 2008 |



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WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

As in previous years, we are making available a series of workshops for parents to attend. They were scheduled twice a month for about 1 hour after dinner at TLC.

- What is High Scope curriculum and how to use it at home? (1 session)
- What is Reggio Emilia's approach to teaching and its application at home? (1 session)
- What is Early Literacy and how do we practice at home? (1 session)
- What are the Florida School Readiness Standards and how can I help my child meet them at home? (2 to 3 sessions)
- How does my child develop? (1 session)
- Building Self-esteem (1 session)
- Discipline strategies (1 session)
- Controlling and overcoming Biting and Temper tantrums (1 session).

We usually started them either right before the holiday season or after. Since this announcement may be too short notice to start before the holiday season, I would then schedule them starting in January 2008. I do need to know if you are interested and which ones you prefer to attend. So please indicate below your preferences and return to the office as soon as possible but no later than 11/30/07. Thank you.

PARENTS' WORKSHOP INTEREST SURVEY

- _____ What is High Scope curriculum and how to use it at home? (1 session)
- _____ What is Reggio Emilia's approach to teaching and its application at home? (1 session)
- _____ What is Early Literacy and how do we practice at home? (1 session)
- _____ What are the Florida School Readiness Standards and how can I help my child meet them at home? (2 to 3 sessions)
- _____ How does my child develop? (1 session)
- _____ Building Self-esteem (1 session)
- _____ Discipline strategies (1 session)
- _____ Controlling and overcoming Biting and Temper tantrums (1 session).

Please return to the office no later than 11/30/07. Thank you. Anne-Marie
