



The Preschool Press



JANUARY 2012

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Welcome to the CSD Tiny Tot Preschools' monthly newsletter, *The Preschool Press*. We appreciate your interest in keeping informed about our preschools. We hope that this newsletter will allow us to better serve you

by providing convenient reminders of important dates and activities.

Would you like to see other information provided in this newsletter? Do you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter? Let us know! Send us an e-mail at CSDPreschool@cspdps.com



In the Spotlight!

Lynn Gonzales—Tiny Tot Connection



What do you like most about teaching preschool age children?

Three and four year olds are open, honest and spontaneous. They are like little sponges, ready to absorb new ideas and information. I love when they have an "ah ha" moment and learn something new. While teaching, you can walk like a penguin, sing silly songs or have leprechauns come and "visit" your classroom. You can't do that with high school students. My students keep me laughing, learning and young!

How long have you worked in the field of Education?

I have always loved working with children which lead me to earn my B.A. in Child Development from San Jose State University. I worked with children and adults with disabilities for 8 years in Santa Clara. After moving to Elk Grove, I worked out of my home for 17 years, providing day care and preschool experiences for numerous children and their families. This is my fifth year as a Teacher with the Tiny Tot Pre-

schools program.

If you had the opportunity to teach a young child only one thing, what would it be?

I would have to say respect for yourself and others. We discourage the words "I can't" in our classroom. Students are asked to try their best and believe in themselves. We also try to teach tolerance and respect for others and that being different is not a bad thing.

What is your favorite activity during program time?

I love when the children come to the teacher table. This smaller group setting provides the perfect opportunity for conversation and experience that may not happen in a larger group. I am able to help each child on a more personal basis, and assess and encourage them when needed. We can engage in conversations that go beyond the topic at circle time. I love the interaction between the group and enjoy being able to teach something new.

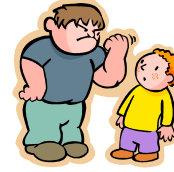
What do you think the purpose of preschool is?

We work hard to expose our students to as many opportunities and experiences as we can. They learn the importance of working together as part of a group. Through these experiences we hope to instill a love of learning and lay a foundation for future learning.

What advice would you give a parent who is worried about their child not being ready for kindergarten?

Every child develops at their own speed. After talking with several Kindergarten teachers they assure me that the academics will come. They look to the parents and preschool teachers to help with the social and emotional development of the child. This includes but is not limited to; being able to take care of their personal needs, sitting and listening during circle time and being able to "use their words" to handle problems with their friends. Parents know their children best—so use your best instincts.

Bullies...in Preschool?



Teach the difference between tattling and telling – the victim and bully need intervention in order to stop the pattern.

Efforts are increasing to help prevent bullying among young people. Some may be surprised that bullying can occur among children in preschool. Unfortunately, bullying at this young age is not uncommon.

It is also believed that efforts to prevent bullying should begin in early childhood during this important time of social and emotional development for young children. As parents, educators and members of the community, we must do what we can to prevent bullying.

Wikipedia defines bullying as

a form of aggressive behavior manifested by the use of force or coercion to affect others, particularly when the behavior is habitual and involves an imbalance of power.

The Ottawa Preschool Bullying Prevention Coalition states that bullying may involve:

- direct physical actions: hitting or shoving
- verbal assaults: teasing or name-calling
- indirect actions: isolating or manipulating

Three key components of bullying:

- Repeated over time

- Intent to harm.
- Imbalance of power.

The coalition's website gives tips for signs to look for in a bully and ways parents can help their child to deal with their feelings and get help if they are being bullied. Some suggestions include being aware of your child's feelings and helping your child come up with ways to solve or deal with a problem.

Check out their website at <http://www.ottawakids.ca/en/preschoolbullying/> for more information.

Did you know...?

An Administration of Medication form is required to be on file with the teacher in the classroom if your child must take any prescribed medication during program time. For the health and safety of every child, no medication will be given without written authorization from the parent/

guardian and the child's Physician. All medications must be kept in a cabinet in the classroom that is out of reach of all participants. No medication of any kind should be kept in a child's backpack or cubby. The children's safety is our top priority. Please see your child's teacher if your child needs

to take medication during their time at preschool.



Parent Handbook and Program Evaluations

Parent Handbook

Please review the Parent Handbook you received at registration for information such as Tiny Tot Preschools' Philosophy, helpful separation techniques and field trips. The handbook is a great resource to learn more about your child's preschool experience and how you can get involved. For your convenience we have included it on our website at:

http://www.yourcsd.com/rec/pdf/children_tinytot_handbook.pdf

Program Evaluations

If your child is enrolled in Tiny Tot Preschools, please take a moment to fill out our on-line program evaluation at:

http://www.yourcsd.com/rec/preschool_evaluation.asp

Breakfast is Important for Preschoolers

Preschoolers can benefit greatly from eating breakfast each day. Check out the summary of benefits below:

Weight

- Eating breakfast may decrease the risk of being overweight in adults and children.

Brain Function

- Children who eat breakfast perform better on activities that deal with math, matching, memory and creativity.

Dental Health

- Skipping breakfast is associated with a higher risk of developing dental cavities especially among 2 to 5 year old children.

Diet Quality

- Eating breakfast improves the quality of a child's diet.
- Breakfast makes a significant contribution to a child's daily nutrient intake.
- Children who skip breakfast are less likely to

meet recommended levels for important nutrients—folic acid, calcium, vitamin A & D.

For more information and for breakfast ideas visit <http://parenting.uwex.edu/parenting-the-preschooler/>



2012-2013 PRESCHOOL PRIORITY REGISTRATION



Tiny Tot Preschools will have Priority Registration forms available from January 3, 2012 to January 13, 2012. Children in the 3-year old preschool classes will have priority in advancing to the 4-year old Pre-K classes each fall, leaving limited openings in the 4-year old Pre-K classes. We will also give priority to siblings of former Tiny Tot Preschool students that are currently living in Elk Grove zip codes (95624, 95757, and 95758). **All forms and payment must be turned in by January 13, 2012.**

Preschool is Fun...Just ask our 3 year old classes...

At **Tiny Tot Connection** the children had a great pajama day. They brought stuffed animal friends to school and made them bracelets at the art table. Then they had a pajama parade through

Laguna Town Hall. Miss Robbie is very proud of her class at **Tiny Tot Pals** who learned five holiday songs that they shared with their families at the Holiday Party. Children at **Tiny Tot Neighbors** really

enjoyed play and exploring a special train set brought in by Mr. Andy. And the children at **Tiny Tot Station** made an edible Menorah to help introduce the holiday of Hanukkah.



Children get ready for the Holidays by wrapping presents in dramatic play.



Pajama Day is always a fun day at Tiny Tot Preschools.



Children made edible Menorahs while learning about Hanukkah.

Pre-K is cool...Just ask our 4 year old classes...

The children at Tiny Tot Station read the Gingerbread Man; then they created their own gingerbread boys and girls. At Tiny Tot Connection a special pajama day brought a new twist to recess. This

day stuffed animal friends join in on the fun as the children played freeze dance, had a relay race and play parachute games. The children at Tiny Tot Pals had a lot to share at teacher table last

month, especially when they were asked about their families. And on game day the children at Tiny Tot Neighbors really liked playing color and shape bingo.



Children at TTC had a surprise visit from Santa at their Holiday Party.



Children at TTN enjoying the train set during Free Choice time.



Pattern making at TTZ.

Payment Reminders



Tuition payment
was due on
January 1st.
M/W/F: \$221
T/TH: \$167

Tuition is paid one month in advance and is always due no later than the first of the month. You may pay by check, cash, or credit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. You may make the payment over the phone or in person at any of our three office locations listed below.

Did You Know?
You can sign up for auto pay at any of our three office locations to have your tuition automatically charged each month to your credit card.

Registration Locations

Administration Office

8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Ste 3
Elk Grove, CA 95624
M–F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 405-5300

Laguna Town Hall

3020 Renwick Avenue
Elk Grove, CA 95758
M–F, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 684-7550

Wackford Community and

Aquatic Complex
9014 Bruceville Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758
Everyday,
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Phone: 405-5600



Important Dates to Remember

- 1/1/12 Tuition Due
 - 1/16/12 MLK Day Holiday—Preschools are Closed
 - 1/24/12 Teacher In-Service Day—Preschools are Closed
- ** Please check the parent board in your child's classroom for more information on Portrait Day.

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Better!** SM

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PREP 4 K



Month: **JANUARY** Year: **2012**

Skills to practice this month

Academic Skills:

- Sit and listen during a structured story reading.
- Identify letters and sounds of the Alphabet.
- Count 5 items and match a number to a group with that number of objects.
- Recognize, copy and repeat a patterning sequence.

Social Skills:

- Being respectful of others and property (i.e. supplies, books, furniture, etc.)
- Treat others the way he/she wants to be treated. The Golden Rule.
- Learning not to interrupt when others are talking—to take turns and to say please and thank you.
- Focus on and listen to one central person in the classroom.

Activities

- Set aside time each day/evening to read aloud to your child. Ask your child questions that require more than a “yes” or “no” response. Ask he/she to hold the book and tell you where the letters are and where the pictures are.
- Sing the Alphabet song with your child. Look at a book or magazine with your child and ask him/her to identify specific letters as you point to them. Then ask your child to make the sound of that particular letter.
- As you are driving, have your child count the number of stop signs you stop at. At dinner, have your child help set the table. Ask he/she to put out a place setting for each person in the family and have your child count them.
- Have your child create a pattern using stickers. Simple patterns such as an AB, AB pattern or AA, BB pattern and then move on to more challenging patterns or have your child create his/her own pattern.

Resources

- *The Kissing Hand.* By Audrey Penn
- *First Day, Hooray!* By Nancy Poydar
- *School Bus.* By Donald Crews