



Tiny Tot Preschool & Kindergarten
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Simi Valley, CA
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Tiny Tot Preschool & Kindergarten Newsletter

Play and Learning

Play is simply shorthand for our capacity for our curiosity, imagination, and fantasy- our creative dispositions. What makes play unique it enables us to create new learning experiences. To illustrate, an infant who drops a rattle from the crib, is learning about gravity. He or she is also creating a game that is retrieving the rattle. In addition, the infant learns that the rattle makes different sounds when they are dropped. As toddlers, children often create their own grammars. So Called "pivot" grammars are a case in point. That is the child uses a single words the pivot of many different shorthand sentences, "Baby up," "Baby drink," "Baby down" and so on. Language is a powerful example of importance of children's self initiated play activities in their social learning. Play, however, is equally important in children's learning of reading and math. In Tiny Tot Preschool & Kindergarten's summer issue we will continue our discussion of reading and numbers.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Everyone did their best to express gratefulness and appreciation towards their favorite and we all made a beautiful week out of it. We will remember this week for a long time. Teachers are recharged and motivated to give their best for a whole new year. Thanks to all our parents who participated.

Reminder

We would like to let you know that starting June 1, 2010 our Newsletter format is going to change from monthly to quarterly. You can all expect our summer issue to be posted on our website by June 15, 2010. In addition we will post our entire Summer Program which is going to start. June 21, 2010.

Classroom Transition

The school year is quickly coming to an end. We will begin our summer program on June 20, 2010. Please look for your child's classroom & Teacher assignment on the sign In and Out sheets on this day.

The first day of the 2010/2011 academic school year will begin on September 7, 2010. Your child's classroom may remain the same during the summer program.

The class will transition together on September 7, 2010. As we all know, some children develop at a slower rate than others. Your child may need to remain in their current class if they are not developmentally ready for class advancement. In addition, we now have a Toddler Room, so our room assignments are now as follows: Toddlers/Mini 2's, Older 2's & Younger 3's, Older 3's & Younger 4's, and Older 4's (Jr. Kindergarten) & Kindergarten.

If your child is in the two/three year old class, and still in diapers/pull-ups, uses a pacifier or on a bottle, he/she will not advance to the three/four year old class.

If your child is in the three/four year-old class and still in pull-ups, they will not advance to the Pre-K class.

If your child is an older four-year-old but not academically, developmentally or socially ready for the Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten class, they will not advance to our Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten Class.

Please understand that children do develop at their own individual pace, and this is not to be considered negative in any way. It would be more detrimental to advance a child who is not ready, then to advance them at a later date when they are ready.

The Outdoor Classroom Project
Ten Good Reasons to Get Children Outside

1. Research shows that physical movement is positively linked to brain development.
2. Obesity in young children is quickly becoming a number one health concern.
3. Physical development is an important aspect of the overall development of the child.
4. Children are healthier when they spend time outside.
5. Children learn better when they spend time outside.
6. Children are happier when they spend time outside.
7. Children learn to appreciate and care for the environment.
8. There are multiple opportunities for curriculum development and enhancement utilizing the outside environment.
9. There are increased opportunities for exploring science and nature.
10. The outdoor environment enhances the opportunity for sensory development.

And perhaps the best reason of all:

Mud feels good between your toes!

Recipes

Apple Puff Pancake - Servings: 6 to 8

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
- 2/3 cup (175 mL) all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) cinnamon
- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- icing sugar for dusting
- maple syrup, as an accompaniment, if desired

Cooking Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. Place the butter in a 10-inch (25 cm) deep dish pie plate or a 9-inch (23 cm) square baking dish.
3. In a medium sized mixing bowl, beat together the eggs, milk and vanilla with an electric mixer until well mixed and foamy. In a small bowl, stir together the flour, sugar and cinnamon. Add to the egg mixture and beat just until smooth. Set aside for a moment.
4. Place the pie plate or baking dish into the oven and let heat until the butter is melted and hot. Remove from the oven and holding the dish carefully with oven mitts, swirl gently to coat the entire surface with butter. Quickly arrange the apple slices evenly on the bottom of the dish and pour in the batter.
5. Place in the oven and bake 30 to 35 minutes or until puffed and lightly browned. Dust with icing sugar before cutting into wedges or squares. Serve with a drizzle of maple syrup if you like.

This Month's Highlights

5-09-10

Mother's Day

5-05-10

Cinco De Mayo

5-16-10

Armed Forces Day

5-31-10

Memorial Day

May is:

Better hearing and speech month

National Asparagus Month

National Barbeque Month

National Strawberry Month

Reading Recommendations

Tell Me a Story, Mama by Angela Johnson, David Soman (Illustrator), David Soman (Illustrator)
ISBN-13: 9780531057940

Mommies are for Counting Stars (Lift-the-Flap, Puffin) (Paperback)
by Harriet Ziefert (Author), Cynthia Jabar (Illustrator)

Emily (Hardcover)
by Michael Bedard (Author), Barbara Cooney (Illustrator)

Visit us at our Web Page

For updates and other important information please visit our web page at: www.tinytotpreschool.com

Monthly lunch menus are posted on the web page.

School closures are posted on our web page.

For questions and inquiries, please contact us at (805) 526 1959.

Memorial Day

As you are aware Tiny Tot Preschool & Kindergarten will be close on May 31, 2010, for observation of Memorial Day. Many know Memorial Day as the opening day for BBQ season. In reality Memorial Day is a day of remembrance and a reflection to our past. We would like to share a brief history with you and your children about Memorial Day:

Following the end of the Civil War, many communities set aside a day to mark the end of the war or as a memorial to those who had died. Some of the places creating an early memorial day include Sharpsburg, Maryland, located near Antietam Battlefield; Charleston, South Carolina; Boalsburg, Pennsylvania; Petersburg, Virginia; Carbondale, Illinois; Columbus, Mississippi; many communities in Vermont; and some two dozen other cities and towns. These observances coalesced around Decoration Day, honoring the Union dead, and the several Confederate Memorial Days. Danielle Davis According to Professor David Blight of the Yale University History Department, the first Memorial Day was observed by formerly enslaved black people at the Washington Race Course (today the location of Hampton Park) in Charleston, South Carolina. The race course had been used as a temporary Confederate prison camp in 1865 as well as a mass grave for Union soldiers who died there. Immediately after the cessation of hostilities, formerly enslaved people exhumed the bodies from the mass grave and reinterred them properly with individual graves. They built a fence around the graveyard with an entry arch and declared it a Union graveyard. The work was completed in only ten days. On May 1, 1865, the Charleston newspaper reported that a crowd of up to ten thousand, mainly black residents, including 2800 children, processed to the location for a celebration which included sermons, singing, and a picnic on the grounds, thereby creating the first Decoration Day.

The first observance was in Waterloo, New York on May 5, 1866, and each year thereafter. The friendship between General John Murray, a distinguished citizen of Waterloo, and General John A. Logan, who helped bring attention to the event nationwide, was likely a factor in the holiday's growth. On May 5, 1868, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization, Logan issued a proclamation that "Decoration Day" be observed nationwide. It was observed for the first time on May 30 of the same year; the date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of a battle. The tombs of fallen Union soldiers were decorated in remembrance.

Many of the states of the U.S. South refused to celebrate Decoration Day, due to lingering hostility towards the Union Army and also because there were relatively few veterans of the Union Army who were buried in the South. A notable exception was Columbus, Mississippi, which on April 25, 1866, at its Decoration Day commemorated both the Union and Confederate casualties buried in its cemetery.



Flags flying at Fort Logan National Cemetery during Memorial Day

The alternative name of "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882. It did not become more common until after World War II, and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, the United States Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, which moved three holidays from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The holidays included Washington's Birthday, now celebrated as Presidents' Day; Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.

After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply, all 50 states adopted the measure within a few years. In 1978, Veterans Day was eventually changed back to its traditional date on November 11. Most corporate businesses no longer close on Veterans Day, Columbus Day or President's Day, with the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and/or New Year's Eve often substituted as more convenient "holidays" for their employees. Memorial Day endures as a holiday which most businesses observe because it marks the beginning of the "summer vacation season." This role is filled in neighboring Canada by Victoria Day, which occurs either on May 24 or the last Monday before that date, placing it exactly one week before Memorial Day.