

THE LITTLE PLAYHOUSE FAMILY CHILDCARE
NEWSLETTER
August 2008

Wow! The summer is almost over and its time again for our new school year to start. We had lots of fun this summer playing games, doing arts and crafts, and playing outside. I included a few pictures so that you can see all the wonderful things we did.

Our academic year starts Monday, August 11th. Our theme for the month is **Down at the Farm**. We will also focus on color recognition and naming parts of the body. The older preschoolers will continue to focus on learning how to write their name and improving their cutting skills.

Spanish Lessons

The Little Playhouse Family Childcare is proud to announce the addition of Spanish lessons. I will be teaching a new phrase and/or word per week. I developed this program because I realize that learning a second language is very important in today's society. Also, the best time to teach children a second language is when they are very young because they are able to absorb the information more easily. In the short time since I started the lessons, it has been gratifying to hear "excelente" or "buenos dias" from our children. They are very proud of their accomplishments, and are eager to learn more and more!

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Our Curriculum

We are again using the Adventures in Learning preschool curriculum. Adventures in Learning is a professionally developed, age-appropriate monthly preschool curriculum for ages 2 ½ - 5. The curriculum's goal is to enhance the development of readiness skills and encourage a love for learning. The activities and projects are designed specifically to help children develop skills in letter, shape, color and number recognition. Adventures in Learning curriculum utilizes a variety of math, science, and literacy activities, as well as creative arts, physical activities, and social skills. Children learn and grow as they enjoy poems, books, stories, games, finger-plays, and arts and crafts.

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Adventures in Learning Curriculum Themes

Themes Preview 2008-2009				
September 2008	October 2008	November 2008	December 2008	January 2009
<p>Getting Acquainted A Royal Welcome Birthday Celebrations</p> <p>All Around Town Buckle Up Buses, Trains, and Planes</p> <p>A,B,C 0,1 Yellow Square</p> <p>Hand Puppet Ellie the Elephant</p> <p>Numbertales 0,1 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Grandparent's Day</p>	<p>Fantastic Firefighters Fire Engines/Stop, Drop and Roll Five Senses</p> <p>Changing Seasons Apples, Trees, and Leaves Spin a Web- Spider-ific!</p> <p>D,E,F 2,3 Orange & Black Circle</p> <p>Hand Puppet Danny the Dog</p> <p>Numbertales 2,3 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Halloween</p>	<p>Happy Harvest Pumpkins and Scarecrows From the Field to the Table</p> <p>We are Thankful Let's Talk Turkey Thanksgiving and Life in Early America</p> <p>G,H,I 4,5 Brown Triangle</p> <p>Hand Puppet Zack the Zebra</p> <p>Numbertales 4,5 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Thanksgiving</p>	<p>A Joyful Noise Let's Sing/ Strike up the Band Gingerbread</p> <p>Cultural Celebrations Hanukkah and Christmas Kwanzaa</p> <p>J,K,L 6,7 Red Octagon</p> <p>Hand Puppet Peggy the Pig</p> <p>Numbertales 6,7 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Christmas Hanukah Kwanzaa</p>	<p>Let's Pretend Kings, Queens, and Castles Nursery Rhymes</p> <p>Let's Explore Snow and Ice Shapes and Sizes</p> <p>M,N,O 8,9 White Star</p> <p>Hand Puppet Mike the Monkey</p> <p>Numbertales 8,9 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations New Year's Day Martin Luther King</p>
February 2009	March 2009	April 2009	May 2008	
<p>"Forget Me Not" Fairy Tales Treats for My Sweets</p> <p>Being Healthy, Growing Strong You Are What You Eat Open-Widel</p> <p>P,Q,R 10,11 Pink Heart</p> <p>Hand Puppet Henry the Horse</p> <p>Numbertales 10,30 &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Groundhog's Day Valentine's Day</p>	<p>Animals Forest Animals Zoo Animals</p> <p>Out of this World Sun, Moon, and Stars Astronauts and Robots</p> <p>S,T,U 12,13 Green Diamond</p> <p>Hand Puppet Timmy the Tiger</p> <p>Numbertales 100, Skip Counting &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>Think Spring Backyard Birds Bunnies and Baskets Make Way for Ducks</p> <p>Weather Watching Wacky Weather It's Raining, It's Pouring</p> <p>V,W,X 14 Purple Oval</p> <p>Hand Puppet Larry the Lion</p> <p>Numbertales, Simple Addition &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Easter Earth Day Poetry Month</p>	<p>Home on the Range Wild West Horses and Cows</p> <p>Growing a Garden Plants and Seeds May Flowers</p> <p>Y,Z 15 Blue Rectangle</p> <p>Hand Puppet Connie the Cow</p> <p>Numbertales, Simple Subtraction &</p> <p>Special Theme Book</p> <p>Special Celebrations Cinco de Mayo Mother's Day</p>	

2008 PAID HOLIDAYS AND CLOSINGS

As most of you already know, my husband will be deployed to Iraq sometime in January 2009. He will be gone for at least one year. I will be closing the daycare for a week before he leaves. I will also be closing the daycare for a week when he comes to visit for his R&R which is usually six to eight months into his deployment. This time is very important for our family and we ask that you respect our need/desire to spend quality time with our family member. I will give you as much notice as the military gives us. You will not be charged for these personal days.

Tuesday, January 1, 2008	New Year's Day
Monday, May 26, 2008	Memorial Day
Friday, July 4, 2008	Independence Day
Monday, September 1, 2008	Labor Day
Friday, October 31, 2008	No evening care
Tuesday, November 11, 2008	Veteran's Day
Monday, November 24, 2008	Personal Day-No Charge
Tuesday, November 25, 2008	Personal Day-No Charge
Wednesday, November 26, 2008	Personal Day-No Charge
Thursday, November 27, 2008	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 28, 2008	Day after Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 24, 2008	Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 25, 2008	Christmas Day
Friday, December 26, 2008	Day after Christmas
Wednesday, December 31, 2008	New Year's Eve
Thursday, January 1, 2009	New Years Day 2009
Friday, January 2, 2009	Personal Day-No Charge

You will not be charged for my personal days. You are, however, responsible for payment for all other days closed.

Accreditation Update

I am currently in the Self Observation Phase of Accreditation (Phase Two).

This is the most important phase. During Phase Two providers:

- * Review Quality Standards in family childcare
- * Evaluate the quality of their childcare homes
- * Identify areas where improvement is needed to meet quality standards
- * Design a professional development plan to prepare for accreditation
- * Make quality improvements
- * Attend training
- * Gather documentation for the Observation Step

For more information regarding accreditation please visit www.nafcc.org.

A Few Reminders

- Weekly tuition is due in advance on Fridays for the following week. Thank you to all parents who pay on time.
- Please remember that you may **only** park on the right side of the driveway. The left side is reserved for my husband, my substitute, and the inspector.
- Make sure to pick up your child on time. I have had several late pick ups in the past few weeks. Please understand that I may have plans after daycare. My own children attend school/dance class and I cannot be late.
- Please do not allow your child to touch any of the plants in the front of the house. Some are not safe for children. I have provided the children many beautiful safe plants in the playground for their enjoyment and exploration.
- Please be in control of your child at all times while in the front of my home.

Inspection

I was inspected on Tuesday, August 5th by a representative from the Hillsborough County Childcare Licensing Unit. I'm proud to say that I once again passed with no citations. Thank you to all of you for your continued support and involvement in our daycare. Let's continue to work together to make our daycare the best that it can be for our children.