



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



Denise Buthion
 Director
 (405) 842-5325
 dbuthion@nicholshillsumc.org



Quality childcare is not expensive. It is priceless. . .

THE LEARNING CENTER

Our mission is *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First day of spring session 2018	January 2
Dr. MLK Birthday-TLC closed	January 15
Valentine Parties	February 14
Spring Break-TLC closed	March 12-16
Summer session enrollment	March 19-23
Good Friday-TLC closed	March 30
Muffins for Moms	May 14
Last day of spring session	May 26
Memorial Day-TLC closed	May 28-June 1
First day of summer session	June 4
Donuts for Dads	June 18
Fall session enrollment	June 25-29
Independence Day-TLC closed	July 4
Last day of summer session	July 27
TLC summer break-TLC closed	July 30-August 3
First day of fall session	August 6

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please watch for OKC school closings when we have ice or snow. **Nichols Hills United Methodist Church** will come up as closed when this plan is in effect for The Learning Center. Watch the main news channels 4, 5, or 9 to see the list of closings. We will text and email you all to the best of our ability. The phone line should have a message declaring a snow day as well. When in doubt you may always text your teacher, home room representative or Denise. We hope to eliminate any confusion or inconvenience when the inclement weather arrives. It looks like it is going to be an active winter weather wise. Be safe!



Weekly Specials Spring 2018

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Amazing Athletes 10 Tippi Toes Dance* 10:30	Art Lessons 10 & 2:30 Children's Chapel 2:45 (Monkeys & older in art)	Children's Chapel 9:45 Munchkin Music 10 (Everyone does music)	Amazing Athletes 10 Children's Chapel 2:45	Amazing Athletes 10 (Monkeys and older participate in this)
*cost extra \$35 monthly	Chapel is for 3 yrs & up	Chapel for 3 yrs & up	Chapel for 3 yrs & up	



Outdoor Play is Still Okay

The tree branches are bare, the temperatures have dropped, and the first snow has fallen: By the end of the month, winter will officially be here. With the weather less than favorable, more likely than not you and the kids are spending more time inside each day. However, outdoor play in the winter is still important to children's mental and physical health. Here are four reasons to bundle up and enjoy the snowy weather.

Exercise. Health experts recommend **60 minutes** of moderate to intense activity per day for kids, and there often isn't



enough space for this to happen inside. Not only will the outdoors give them plenty of room, but the more challenging winter landscape encourages the use of bigger muscles

to plow through snow or climb a hill to sled. Also, an added bonus while they get this exercise outside: Vitamin D. This is especially important for raising serotonin levels, which can drop in the winter months with the darker landscape and result in Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Critical thinking. What's the fastest way to slide down that hill without a sled? How can you run across this snow without slipping? What's the best plan to build a snow fort, pack a snowball, or roll up a snowman? It's entirely new terrain for kids to explore that will stimulate their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Nature lessons. The snow provides a great opportunity to look at the environment from a paper to use as a background for examining individual snowflakes, or mix food coloring and water in a squeeze bottle to draw on the snow and then see how the colors mix and change in the conditions.

Sickness prevention. Playing outside can actually boost kids' immune systems. Inside, bacteria and viruses are rotated within and between each room in warm, poorly ventilated air, making it easy for germs to spread from person to person. Of course, there are germs outside too, but more organic exposure is natural and can help children become less likely to develop autoimmune diseases and allergies later on.

"Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet
come. We have only today.
Let us begin."

- Mother Teresa



Recycle plastic bags

The Learning Center uses many plastic bags for soiled clothing or diapers. If you shop and have extra plastic bags we would love to take them off your hands. Bring one – bring a bunch. We appreciate them all.



Absences from School

We understand that people will miss school from time to time, but it helps us to know if you don't plan to attend. Call and let us know if your child is ill so we may let other families know too. Families benefit from the extra days available when we know they will be available. Please help us out.

Drop-In Charges Due

The next time you need to "drop in" (a day you don't normally attend) we will need the tuition to be paid at that time. All accounts must be paid **in full by the end of the month**. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy. Thank you!



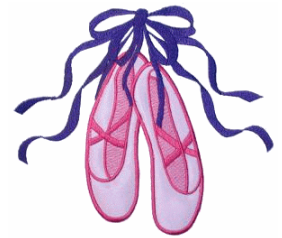
DANGER in the Parking Lot!

Cars have been racing through our parking lot at speeds exceeding 20 miles per hour and this is a problem. Please remember that young children are at risk with speeding cars in the parking lot. We appreciate everyone remembering that there is precious cargo every where. SLOW it down. . .



Tippi Toes

Tippi Toes offers positive, fun dance classes for girls and boys ages 1.5 – 6 years-old! Our mission: to develop a love of dancing in children by creating a positive experience that promotes healthy living habits, helps build self-confidence, and a love for others. Classes at TLC are on Mondays from 10:30-10:55 a.m. Tuition is \$35 per month. To enroll, please go to www.tippitoesdance.com/oklahoma-city and follow the instructions to enroll!



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 and strength training within a non-competitive, learning-based environment. Each class focuses on two different sports and incorporates activities proven to increase children's overall cardiovascular fitness, muscle tone, hand-eye coordination, reaction time and more! Teaching children life skills through sports is FUN! Classes are held on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, too. The program is for Monkeys, Zebras, Jaguars and Cheetahs. This program is a year-round activity. Enjoy your new Amazing Athletes' shirts!

Music Classes



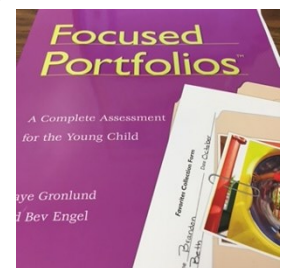
Your monthly tuition also includes Music class on Wednesdays. Each week we have Miss Andrea from Munchkin Music bring her expertise to the Cubs (infants) through Cheetahs. All of the children enjoy their music time and look forward to it. We have a Christmas Music Program and Spring Demonstration to share what the children have learned. Each month we send out songs, finger plays and key concepts that Andrea is working on with the children. Watch for this information each month in an email. Drop by to see the children in action. It is

quite fun!

Focused Portfolios

Our staff uses a process of documentation called "Focused Portfolios" to record children's growth and development. Through photographs, anecdotes and children's work samples, teachers put together a visual account of each child's accomplishments. This process recognizes and celebrates that all children develop at different rates and with various strengths. Collections are completed in fall and spring and are kept in a folder for the year, after which the portfolio becomes a keepsake for the child and family. This collection is a representation of your child as an individual with distinct interests, background, skills and desires. We will offer family conferences twice a year to share these special collections and to celebrate the accomplishments of your child. Families are invited to participate in this portfolio collection process in whichever special way you choose. Here are some suggestions:

- ⇒ Create a photo collage of your immediate or extended family
- ⇒ Write about a special family event or trip and include a photo
- ⇒ Share how your child's name was selected
- ⇒ Describe a family hobby or typical weekend past time



Monthly Drill



Our last fire drill was conducted December 11, in the morning. The children exited the building in one minute, ten seconds. All the classes go straight to the BIG outdoor playground. Teachers take attendance and talk to the children about the process so they can learn about fire safety. Each class practices going to our tornado shelter (downstairs) monthly as well. Make sure you practice what to do at home, too.

Art Classes with Ms. Vanessa



We are so happy to have Ms. Vanessa working with our children in the Art Studio. She has worked in the public schools and taught in a variety of private programs. Her three year old daughter is in the Jaguars' class. Our art schedule will remain the same as last year, Tuesdays 10 a.m. and 2:30

p.m. In between classes she will prep the art studio for the next project and group of children. One of her tasks is displaying the finished works in our "gallery." Your contributions of egg cartons, paper towel rolls, cigar boxes and so on, have made the program very enjoyable. Family participation is always appreciated! We will inform you of any upcoming projects so you may support the children's work. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Vanessa.



Services at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church

We invite all families to our church services on Sundays. There is an 8:30 a.m. and a 10:50 a.m. service. Sunday school is typically 9:45 to 10:30. Child care is available. Our music, choir and sermons are very much the antidote for a hectic life. Please join us. For more information call the church 842-1486. See you then!



IMMUNIZATIONS must be kept current. Please bring an updated shot record to school. Thank you!

Children's Chapel Time



Our children are enjoying their time learning about God in our Sanctuary on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have a prayer, song and quick Bible story. As part of the Nichols Hills United Methodist Church's mission we are committed to leading children into faith for the transformation of the world. Tuesdays and Thursdays our chapel time is 2:45 -3 p.m. and Wednesdays we have chapel 9:45-10 a.m. Families are welcome.

JANUARY Birthdays

Lillian Diamond	January 3
Miles Morey	January 4
Jude McGuigan	January 18
Colt Butler	January 19
Sloane Baker	January 20
Henrietta Dockendorf	January 23
Toneeka Smith*	January 23
Yamilex Longoria*	January 24
A'lexus Broussard*	January 30



*indicates staff member



January Afternoon Snacks 2018

 <p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Cheese Stix & Ritz Crackers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Goldfish & Fruit Cups</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ham & Cheese Roll ups</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bananas & Cheerios</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Cereal Bars & Apple Juice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Hummus & Pita chips</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Animal Crackers & Yogurt dip</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Honey Pretzels & Pickles</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Fruit snacks & Nilla Wafers</p>
 <p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Wheat Thins & Pickles</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Carrots & Ranch Dip</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pepperoni & Ritz Crackers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Veggie Straws & Apple Juice</p>
<p>22</p> <p>American Cheese & Honey Pretzels</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Granola Bar & Juice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Chex Mix & Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Applesauce & Cheese cubes</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Cheerios & Craisins</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Pudding Cups & Graham Crackers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Cream Cheese & Tortillas</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Veggie Straws & Ranch Dip</p>	<p>FYI: PM snacks are provided by TLC AM snacks by families Except for Cubs</p>	

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) typically meets the second Wednesday of each month in the Parlor at **2 p.m.** On **January 9**. Any family members who wish to participate are welcome to join us. The PAC serves as feedback for the management team, helps to distribute information, assist with special celebrations and so on. We welcome your input as to how to involve families in our program or any other suggestions for improvements. So far the communication has improved with your help. Your involvement is always appreciated! The following people who represent the classrooms are:



- Cubs—OPEN
- Pandas—Jamie Johnson
- Monkeys—Marina Williams
- Zebras—Mary Fitch
- Jaguars—Annette Boyd
- Cheetahs—OPEN

Happy Work Anniversary

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to recognize **Miss Mary Proctor** on her work anniversary at The Learning Center. **January 6, 2007** she joined the program in the Cubs as a teacher. Her **eleven years** here have provided us with wonderful continuity in the infant room. Each month when her children celebrate their first birthday she makes a wonderful sign that is special and unique for just that child. She is such a joy to work with and we appreciate her gentle ways very much. Thank you Miss Mary for all your contributions to make our program so special. Happy anniversary!





THE LEARNING CENTER

Tuition Schedule effective August 7, 2017

Monthly Tuition

(Two day minimum, all ages)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
\$122	\$155	\$122	\$155	\$122

Examples: Monday, Wednesday, Friday = \$366
 Tuesday, Thursday = \$310
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday = \$676
 Any combination of days based on availability.

Other Fees:

- Enrollment Fee (per session) \$75 - 1st child; \$15 - less each additional child
- Supply Fee Included in enrollment fee.
- Drop In Rate \$35 per day Monday / Wednesday / Friday
\$45 per day Tuesday /Thursday (upon availability)
- Late Pick Up \$1 per minute, per child.
- Returned Check Fee \$25

TLC Staff appreciates all of the support, encouragement and gratitude that you have shared with us. We want to thank you for the holiday treats, presents and cards. Our families make our work more joyous than you can imagine. Best wishes for the new year.

