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Quality childcare is not expensive. It is price-less. . .

## THE LEARNING CENTER

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

### 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Family Surveys	December 4-8
Meet & Greet New Class	December 14, 15
Christmas Parties	December 20
Preschool Program	December 20
Last day of fall session	December 20
Staff Work Day-TLC closed	December 21
Christmas Break-TLC closed	Dec 22-Jan 1
First day of spring session 2024	January 2



### Christmas Break Scheduled

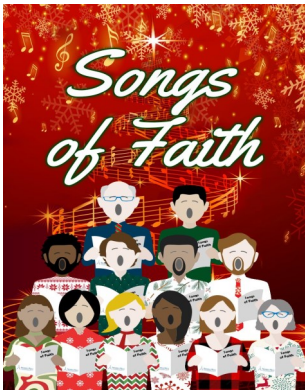
Please note that The Learning Center will be **closed** December 21 through January 1 for the holidays. Let's all return healthy **January 2.**

### Family Surveys Due

Please fill out the electronic survey for your family. Each year we are required to provide you an opportunity for feedback on our care and services. December 4-8 surveys will be sent out electronically by Survey Monkey. All surveys will remain **anonymous**. Your constructive comments are appreciated!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32JJ3HK>



### Christmas Eve Plans

Plan to join us on December 24 for a **Christmas Eve celebration**. There will be two services; one at 4 p.m. and another at 5:30 p.m. If you don't have another option for worship, you will enjoy this!



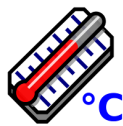
### Weekly Specials 2023

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Amazing Athletes 10:00	Tippi Toes Dance* 10 Art 10:30 Children's Chapel 2:45	Children's Chapel 9:45 Music 10	Amazing Athletes 9:30 Children's Chapel 2:45	Amazing Athletes 9:30
*cost extra \$40 monthly	Art is for Jags and up	Everyone does music	Chapel is for Jags and up	



### 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 when we know they will be available. We will call to see if your child is well. Everyone wants to know if someone has something contagious. Especially during this pandemic. Please help us with this process. Thanks!



### 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!



### Meet & Greet New Classroom

We have two days set aside for families to visit their child's new classroom. **December 14th and 15th after closing** you will have an opportunity to see the classroom and meet the teachers. Wednesday after 2:30 and Thursday after 4 we will welcome families into the building. You are always welcome to enter (just before or after drop off and pick up times).



*The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen...A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.*  
-Rachel Naomi

**IMMUNIZATIONS must be kept current. Please bring an updated shot record to school.**

**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.



### Preschool Christmas Program

We invite Jaguar and Cheetah families to join us for our Preschool Christmas program **Wednesday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. Help us spread the Christmas cheer with punch and cookies after the program. Please make sure you sign your child out with his/her teacher before exiting the building.



## 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 Tuesdays from 10-10:30 a.m. Tuition is \$40 per month. To enroll, please go to <https://forms.gle/MJ5ib4hT9utSkwuHA> and follow the instructions. We do have classes all summer, too.



## 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. Wear your Amazing Athletes' shirts on the day you attend!

## Music Classes

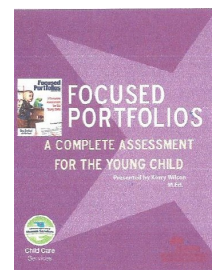


Your monthly tuition also includes Music class on Wednesdays. Each week we have Miss Jordan bring her expertise to the Cubs (infants) through Cheetahs. All of the children enjoy their music time and look forward to it. We will have a spring demonstration to share what the children have learned this year. Looking forward to our Spring Sing 2024.

## 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 Fire Drill



Our last fire drill was held November 9. The drill went well at just one minute to completely exit the building. The children don't like the loud noise of the alarm. Make sure you practice what to do at home, too.

What does your plan look like? Where does your family meet?

## Developmental Milestones

Each week we distribute copies of your child's classroom lesson plan via email. Listed are all of the learning centers with an activity planned in relation to the weekly theme. Our teachers plan the weekly themes for the entire year based on holidays, special events, and the children's interests. Children are learning in every task and activity that we have. We follow Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines which focuses on different areas to support children's over all development. You will see ELG listed at the bottom of each center with a code of: **CS** for Creative Skills

**M** for Math

**HS** for Health and Safety

**PD** for Physical Development

**SE** for Social & Emotional

**LA** for Language Arts

**SP** for Social and Personal skills

**SS** for Social Studies

**S** for Science

There are additional codes which relate to specific standards and indicators of a child's progress.

Teachers write anecdotal records, take photos of activities or get a work sample to validate their observation of progress. We keep this together in a portfolio of each and every child. We share this information with you during **family conferences**.

Should you wish to look over your child's portfolio at any time you are welcome to do so. Teachers work on these every day to capture the full picture of your child's development at TLC.

## 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.



## December Birthdays



Melanie Fuentes\*

December 6

Lincoln Hamilton

December 8

Matthew Means

December 8

Denise Buthion\*

December 10

JJ Schoppa

December 11

Lyn Morgan\*

December 12

Scout Stewart

December 14

Ashley Butler\*

December 15

Rockwell Stout

December 18

Eleanor Penney

December 21

Freeman Hendrick

December 27

Cora Karniewicz

December 27

Hallie Richards

December 28



\*indicates staff member

Families are welcome to bring a treat for their child's birthday. Must be from a commercial kitchen or store. Talk with the teachers and find out when is the best time to celebrate. Cupcakes or cookies are easiest to manage. Thanks!



## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Please watch the main news channels, 4, 5, or 9, to see the list of school closings when there is **ice or snow**. Our school will be listed under **Nichols Hills United Methodist Church**. We will text and email you all to the best of our ability. When in doubt you may always text your teacher 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!





# December Afternoon Snacks 2023



<p><b>FYI: PM snacks are provided by TLC; AM snacks by families Except for Cubs</b></p>				
				<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Nilla Wafers &amp; Bananas</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Gogurt &amp; Graham Crackers</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Applesauce &amp; Cheese Stix</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>American Cheese &amp; Crackers</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Veggie Straws &amp; Applesauce</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Granola bar &amp; Applesauce</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Ham slice &amp; Ritz Crackers</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Crackers &amp; Pickle Slices</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Pepperoni &amp; Peaches</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Animal Crackers &amp; Nutella</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Ritz Crackers &amp; Gogurt</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Nutella &amp; Graham Crackers</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Wheat Thins &amp; Pepperoni</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Christmas Parties</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Closed For</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Christmas Break</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>

## Scholastic Books

Each month we send home a plethora of catalogs for you to order books from Scholastic. You may have them delivered to your home or to the school. We distribute them upon arrival. Every dollar you spends affords us free books! Please encourage your child to pick up a book and read (could be just reading the pictures). The love of reading is instilled very early. Help



## Happy New Year!

The Learning Center will return **January 2, 2024**. We pray you have healthy, happy and relaxing holidays. Remember to make your New Year's Resolutions. See you soon.



## Tuition Schedule effective August 7, 2023

### Monthly Tuition (Two day minimum, all ages)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
\$156	\$198	\$156	\$198	\$142

Examples: Monday, Wednesday, Friday = \$454  
Tuesday, Thursday = \$396  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday = \$850  
Any combination of days based on availability.

#### Other Fees:

- Enrollment Fee (per session) \$75 - 1<sup>st</sup> child; \$60 each additional child
- Drop-In Rate \$35 per day Monday / Wednesday / Friday  
\$45 per day Tuesday /Thursday (upon availability)
- Late Pick Up \$1 per minute, per child. Five minutes grace given.
- Late Pay Fee \$25

#### Ways to Pay On-line

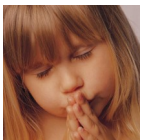
We now offer on-line payments for checks and credit cards. You may set it up for monthly reoccurring payments or not. There is **no fee for the checks**, but there is a 3% fee for Visa, Mastercard or American Express. Naturally the old-fashioned way of writing checks and giving them to us still works! Please read below.

To make electronic payments follow these steps:

Go to Nichols Hills UMC Website – [nicholshillsumc.org](http://nicholshillsumc.org)

1. Click “The Learning Center.”
2. Click “Payment.”
3. Establish a Profile. – This will allow you to make future payments without re-entering your info
4. Enter Payment Amount and Child’s Name.
5. Enter Payment Method.
6. There is a **3% processing fee** for *Debit or Credit Card payments that you add in.*  
For Debit or Credit Card payments, click “Help offset processing fee.” This is not optional.

**We must care about the world of our children and grandchildren, a world we may never see.**



**—Bertrand Russell**

