

Learning Tree Co-operative Preschool
Older 4's/Young 5's Newsletter
October 2018

Welcome to the Older 4's/Young 5's class here at Learning Tree Cooperative Preschool! It's wonderful to see so many returning families and also to see some new faces in our other classes! I am very pleased to have two wonderful aides—Mrs. Stacy Grillo, who has experience as a 4's/5's aide at Adams Elementary and Sarah Hahn, an SVSU student with much experience in working with children at various age levels. We also welcome some co-ops who are an immeasurable help in the class!

Our first few weeks have been fun and very busy! The children are settling into the school routine and enjoying playing with all their friends. We are very proud of the Older 4's/Young 5's group! They are a hard working group of children who are eager to do their best in whatever we are working on. We have already noticed how cohesive they are starting to become and are very supportive and encouraging of each other. These are just a few of the benefits of this small group! We have some great group discussions (especially at lunch) and are already noticing how some of the quieter children are starting to “open up” and feel more comfortable speaking in this small group. This is great for their confidence. Wonderful friendships are forming. Lunch is a great bonding time when we also talk about healthy foods, practice good table manners and cleaning up after ourselves when we are finished.

Over the next few months, we will focus on the numbers from 0-10. We'll read a cute little story about each number and then learn how to make it. We have a little poem for each number that helps to remember how to form them correctly. To date, we have done numbers “0” and “1” during small group time. We are focusing on holding our pencils properly in the “tri-grip” position, sitting with good posture and both feet on the floor, using our “other” hand to help hold the page still and correct number formation. Whew, that's a lot for these little people and they are doing well! They glue some yarn over a big number as a tactile means for practicing afterwards. Adding the correct number of stickers helps with one to one correspondence which is necessary for processing the meaning of each number. I would encourage you to help them post their number pages in a visible place where they can trace their numbers daily to help instill the way the numbers are made. You will also notice that I use a lot of green and red dots which are like little traffic lights—green means where to start from or “go” and red is where to “stop.” Little visual clues help greatly when they are just learning. I also use the colored dots and little arrows to indicate writing or reading from left to right. We often use our “pointer finger” (of their writing hand) to draw in the air to practice correct formation of numbers and letters.

We will also be making a monthly calendar and will do the October calendar this week. We do these all together. The children will trace the dots for the numbers they have learned up to then. Eventually, they will be able to do every number and boy, will they be proud of themselves!! Please help your child find a good place to post and refer to their calendar.

We practice counting daily with the calendar, how many friends come each day, with fingerplays, etc. Please help your child to count many times daily with one to one correspondence such as counting cups, plates, spoons when helping to set the table, counting the steps as you go up and down, etc. They are enjoying the responsibilities of the *Helping Hand* who does the calendar and message board with the pointer, is the line leader, and any other special “jobs” for the day. This past week, we started sending home *The Mystery Can*. Each child will get one or two turns to take it home and put in an object, help compose 3 clues and then see if the class can guess the object the next day. They love it!! ☺

Thank you for helping your child practice forming the letters of his/her name correctly on their name tag each morning. This week, the children will start “signing in” each morning with name cards. They will print their names the “kindergarten” way, meaning an upper case (capital letter) for the first letter only and lower case (small letters) for the rest of their letters, learning to form each one correctly. Please encourage the children to print their name this way at home whenever possible (e.g. when signing a

birthday card for someone). We use the *Zaner-Bloser* printing style which Midland Public Schools uses. This way, the children will be familiar with the same letter formations when they go to kindergarten. We will be learning each letter of the alphabet and their sounds. Later, I will add their last names to their sign-in cards, and eventually, their phone number and address to learn. During the first week, we read and sang Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, a fun alphabet book. We then made individual books which will go home after we've practiced them a few times. Please keep all their little books together as they come home so they can practice them periodically.

In the coming weeks, we'll head over to Barstow Wood to do our first set of Observation Circles for fall. The children always enjoy this adventure and like using the magnifying glasses to see what's inside their circle. We'll repeat this process throughout the year to compare and contrast our observations during the various seasons.

Looking Ahead...

Tuesday, Oct. 9 –Grandma's Pumpkin Patch Time: 10am-11:30/Noon

4277 Eastman Ave. Midland –*approx. 5 miles north of the Midland Mall on the left.*

Please meet at 9:50 am at Grandma's Pumpkin Patch, **not** at the preschool. For our first field trip of the year, we'll enjoy some fall fun with a petting zoo, hay ride, a cow train, playground and a visit to the pumpkin patch before leaving to pick a pumpkin to take home. The preschool will provide the snack and pay for the preschoolers' admissions but parents are asked to pay the \$5 charge for any participating siblings who want to take home a pumpkin. Parents/chaperones are free. **This takes place outside so please remember to dress for the weather. Running shoes or rainboots are recommended.** You may stop into the preschool before the field trip to borrow an Oaki suit and boots if needed. Remember your phones/cameras! If you would like to bring a picnic lunch and eat there, you may do so and enjoy more fun afterwards! In case of heavy rain, we'll try to reschedule before the end of October.

If necessary, my cell phone number is 989-948-2930.

Grandma's Pumpkin Patch – Amanda – 989-513-5222

Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Halloween Party

Please mark your calendars and know you will be welcome to join us that morning. More details later. I'll also remind you if you've signed up for a party or snack item.

Picture Day – Monday, Nov. 12 and Tues. Nov. 13

Individual pictures and a class photo will be taken. Hopefully we'll get the whole class there on one of those days. Order forms will be sent home beforehand.

Thank you for getting your paperwork in so quickly. We really appreciate it. A big thanks also for those of you that helped at Clean-up Night, for supporting our recent fall mums fundraiser or purchasing Scholastic Books.

Our days are busy but also very fun! We are learning so much!

Wishing you a fantastic fall—enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the beautiful, autumn days ahead!

Sincerely,

Wendy Fritsch, Stacy Grillo and Sarah Hahn