

The Tree House

Tid Bits

The April 2017 Newsletter

Spring is here, it is such a wonderful time of year. Spring at The Tree House gives us a breath of fresh air. We are reflecting on the growth of the children in our programs and look forward to the final months of the school year - can you believe school is out in 8 short weeks! Time to start making your summer plans.

There is no school on April 17th. There is no preschool that day. A camp day is offered for school age children and the forms will be available on the sign in table soon.

Our next **parent discussion group**: Peaceful parenting, how to get from tantrums to peace, will be on Tuesday April 18th from 6 - 7 PM here at the Tree House. This is open to the entire community and as always, we provide free childcare.

School age registration for the fall will begin May 1st. We anticipate that our afterschool program will fill as it did this year. We will hold a spot for you through the first week of May, but after May 5th, registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. It is unlikely you will have the luxury to wait until summer to register for next fall.

Summer program information for both school age kids and preschool kids is out and enrollment is ongoing. It is likely that we will fill in our school age morning program so sign up soon if you need a spot. School Age summer camps this year will be Space Adventure, Music Everywhere, and ending with Puppets and Theater.

Hours Extended! We have extended our morning summer hours. We have morning care from 7:30 - 8:30 and the cost is \$8 per hour. Please let us know if you have any questions.

The **Lost and found** is out of control and we will be donating what's left at the end of each week. If you label your kids jackets and sweatshirts we are happy to return them to their cubbie or hook.

Preschool Coffee Breaks - We will be starting a new idea in April called Preschool coffee breaks. Every Friday we will have coffee by the sign in table for everyone to enjoy. It is our hope that you grab a cup of coffee and hang around the front to chat with other parents and caregivers. First one will be this Friday the 7th. Come have a cup of coffee with us.

Two Day: Friendships, play and music fills this class. It has been really fun to watch them develop and transition from parallel play into the beginning stages of cooperative play. It is easy to see how they will fit into our 3 Day class next year. Their language is growing every week, picking up new words and they are starting to use the Boost concepts of "thought bubble" and "trade you" very effectively. As the weather continues to warm the children enjoy playing in the water. It is essential that each child has a change of clothes in their cubbie! We don't like them to come in wet and sandy and we really don't like to send them home (or to child care) wet and sandy. Please help us!

Three Day: St. Patrick's Day was full of fun for the Toucans. They had fun growing leprechaun eggs then checking them out when they had hatched and made such a mess of the Tree House! Their favorite book was *Goodnight Construction Site*. They loved the group play with beans, diggers, dump trucks and rollers. Outside they moved a lot of sand with the big dump trucks. Great development for all those large motor muscles! With the warm weather the kids like to play in the sand and water. Unfortunately, they are not very neat about it so they get wet and sandy! Please leave a change of clothes in their cubbie so we can change them before sending them home! This class has really taken to the Boost vocabulary. They make sure their body is in the group at circle time and that they are listening with their whole body when the teachers and their friends are talking. Thought bubbles, group plans and bubble timers to negotiate a turn are part of their daily play.

PreK: The monkeys had a blast looking for leprechauns. They checked their eggs daily and wondered why some were bigger than others, they loved looking for clues that the leprechauns had been in the classroom. It was great fun to watch them go around as a group looking for clues of glitter and foot prints. Their favorite book was *Dinosaurs Galore*. They loved talking about the difference in different dinosaurs, signing about them and making graphs about what dinosaur is our favorite one. The monkey's social skills and use of the Boost concepts is impressive to watch! They are sharing and taking turns very effectively and largely independently. They make group plans and include those who want to join. The social skills they are learning are invaluable for the years ahead of them.

Enrichment: Outside play is a favorite for this group, especially when the weather is so nice! They love four square, wall ball, various tag games and playing in the sand. Inside the kids are exploring art, dramatic play, putting on shows and playing lots of games. It is great to hear the kids use our Boost vocabulary, "What is the group plan?", "Can I join your plan?", "You can have a turn when the timer is done". Using this vocabulary helps the kids cooperate in groups and learn how to be flexible and cooperative with others.

Enjoy this amazing spring weather. The weeks from now until school is out go by fast. Enjoy!