

THE LEARNING TREE

Kicking off 2021 with our Learning Tree family



Thank you for the memories in 2020!

by Andrea Majewski, Regional Director

This past year has been one for the books for all of us. Our team has learned a lot, tried new things and always saw the light at the end of the tunnel when faced with many, new challenges!

We have all become much more tech savvy in 2020; zoom-ing with children, teachers and each other. We have learned the best way possible to support virtual learning for our school agers, we have learned ourselves to make videos and take loads of photos to share while parents are not able to be inside our classrooms. We have also kept our website updated along the way. We have stepped up our cleaning procedures and researched the healthiest, most effective ways to clean, sanitize and disinfect. We have deep cleaned over and over to keep our centers looking and feeling brand new. Our ZONOs have always been put to good use, but they now are one of our most prized possessions in keeping everyone healthy.

We have welcomed many new families and revamped our tours to make parents and children feel welcomed and comfortable. We have also welcomed new teachers and have revamped our interview & orientation process. We have found many occasions to celebrate and cheer on our team of essential workers in 2020. We have relied on email memos and in person- social distanced, masked up support & encouragement.

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Constantly Updating our Health & Safety Guidelines

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

As you may know, we are constantly updating our website with our new and improved health & safety procedures that we follow at The Learning Tree. We are committed to providing you with the safest environment for your child to learn and grow in with us.

Our teachers have embraced all of our health and safety procedures from our Covid-19 response plan. We applaud our, always essential, teachers for wearing their masks to implement curriculum with the most positive interactions. We created weekly awards such as; Masked Marvel, Sanitizing Superstar, Cleaning Crusader and Handwashing Hero.

Their hard work does not go unnoticed! Most importantly, we continue to create memories with your children. Your children have continued a healthy routine and have adapted exceptionally well to added handwashing throughout their day and their teachers wearing masks. To the children who wear masks, we applaud them (and you!) for this. We are so grateful we are in the early childhood field to create memories with children in 2020, they definitely made these times much more enjoyable for our team! Thank you for being part of our 2020 memories. We have so much to be proud of! We are so grateful for your continued trust and support.

See More Here!

<https://learningtreechildcare.com/covid-19-safety/>

Menu Highlight: Turkey Tomato Soup

Here at LT we take pride in our delicious organic recipes! This month we would like to share with you one of the teachers & children's favorites!

- 3/4 lb Ground Turkey
- 2 tbsp, Olive Oil
- 1 Chopped Onion
- Minced Garlic - Equivalent of 3 Cloves
- 1.4 tsp Black Pepper
- 1 tsp Dry Oregano
- 1 Jar Prego Pasta Sauce
- 4 Cups Chicken Stock
- 1/2 Cup Cream Cheese
- 1 1/2 Cups Whole Wheat Pasta
- 1/4 Cup Dry Basil

Directions: Heat olive oil in pot, add onion and garlic and cook 3-4 minutes. Add the ground turkey and cook thoroughly.

Next add pepper and oregano to the turkey and stir. Now pour in the chicken stock and pasta sauce, scraping the bottom of the pot as you stir.

Bring the soup to a simmer and cook for 10 mins. Add pasta and cook an additional 10 minutes.

Add in basil and cream cheese and serve!

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:



Thank you , Michelle K, for sharing your experience and submitting a video review!



Virtual & In-Person GSRP. Now Offered at LT-West.

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Did you know The Learning Tree Livonia Centers partner with The State of Michigan to offer FREE Pre-K for eligible families!

We are committed to providing your child an amazing pre-k education to get them Kindergarten ready! We are so excited to share that we not only have our in-person learning option, we now offer virtual GSRP. Whether you are ready to come back to in-person learning or want to continue learning from home, we are here for you and would love to have you join our class!!

Here is a little bit about our GSRP teacher, Ms. Kim:

"Hello Everyone! My name is Kim and I am so excited to be teaching the GSRP program this year. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education as well as a Master's Degree in Special Education. I have taught grades Pre-K through 2nd grade for the past 15 years. I am the proud mother of 3 children who all attend The Learning Tree. In our free time my husband and I love to take our kids camping, hiking and fishing. We love the outdoors! I am looking forward to working with you and your child. This year will be filled with fun and educational opportunities that help your student grow." - Kim

Here are just a few benefits that our GSRP programs offer:

In-Person:

- Monday - Thursday 8am -3pm with back up care available outside class hours, and full days on Friday!
- Hightscope curriculum!
- Fresh, organic breakfast, AM snack, Lunch, PM snack-Face to face learning with children and live interaction with teachers

Virtual:

- Monday - Thursday, twice per day class meets live on zoom!
- Hightscope curriculum!
- See and interact with other children and a teacher virtually!

If you are interested in enrolling in our GSRP program, please email our Enrollment Specialist, Kim at LearningTree.Enroll@gmail.com



"We have been a Learning Tree family since 2010! When I returned to work after staying at home for a couple of years, there was never a doubt that we'd return to The Learning Tree North. To say that we were thrilled that our youngest would be in Miss April's class is an understatement! Our older daughters had Miss April and we were so happy to have her again. My youngest has thrived in Miss April's class and she will be so prepared for kindergarten in the fall. Miss April is an amazing teacher. We are so happy to be back!"

-Ann Marie B.



Winter Break was a blast! Here are some of the STEM and Cooking Projects that children in Back Up Care Program completed :

- Straw Roller Coasters (STEM)
- Apple Turnovers (Cooking)
- House of Cards (STEM)
- Tourtiere (Cooking)
- Lava Lamps (STEM)
- Zucchini Bread (Cooking)
- How Strong is Spaghetti (STEM)
- Waffles (Cooking)
- Tye Dye Masks

You can count on each day with no school, children enrolled in Back Up Care will have a fun, engaging activity to complete.

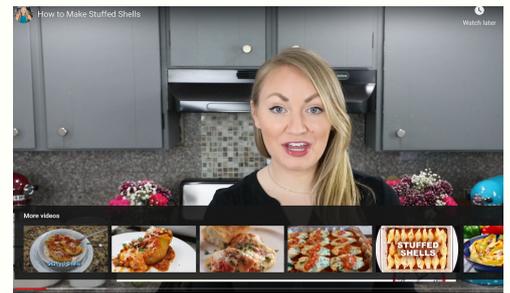
School Age Program

by Andrea Majewski, Regional Director

2020 sure looked a lot different for our school age kiddos, but we still were able to have the BEST year learning virtually with some added stem and cooking FUN! As we go into 2021, we would like you to know that we are still offering virtual learning for our school age children and transportation to and from school, for those who have returned in person. Another highlight of our school age program is the curriculum we have in place outside of their virtual learning! Our school age director plans the BEST cooking projects, STEM projects, outside time, and more to make sure your school ager is still getting that in-person interaction outside of their virtual learning!



January 18, 2021 is a No School Day. Jon, our School Age Program Coordinator has planned for all Learning Tree School Age Classrooms to make stuffed shells while watching this cooking channel:



Thank you for the review, Amber T.



Overall, the outdoors provide amazing platforms for emergent curriculum and planning based on children's interest. Getting children outdoors will open their imaginations, help develop the large and fine motor skills, and so much more.

We recognize how critical time outside is to how children learn is an important step in creating that time. With that being said, here at The Learning Tree going outside is ALWAYS apart of our daily routine; snow or sunshine!

Outside Time

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

For many parents or educators, getting children outdoors can sometimes feel difficult. From the amount of time it takes to get them dressed for the weather to the worry of a concrete slab to play on, there are many things that can hold children back from getting outside. But, did you know that one of the most important foundations of Highscope is active learning?

Active learning, especially outdoors allows children to explore and be hands-on. Being outside allows children to move their body in the way that's needed, where indoors wall can be restricting them.

Some may worry that their child will get sick or hurt being outside, however studies show that children who get outside gain skills in assessing risks and planning how to make safe choices for their bodies.



One thing we ask from our families as it is getting colder, is to make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing! If you have questions on what your child needs to have, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask!

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