

THE LEARNING TREE

THE LEARNING TREE IS A PRESCHOOL THAT NURTURES THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT OF YOUR CHILD.



March is Reading Month!

by Amber Costa, Curriculum Director

A new study found that young children whose parents read to them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about **1.4 MILLION** more words than kids who were never read to. That's a lot of words and all before kindergarten.

Reading to children at an early age promotes growth in all these areas:

- Speech
- Listening and Comprehension
- Phonological Awareness
- Alphabetic knowledge
- Reading
- Book enjoyment & knowledge
- Writing

All in all I think we can all agree, **READING IS IMPORTANT!** Whether you are reading a Facebook post, or in the middle of a novel, or simply driving to work, or you are reading.

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Reading is how you learn about the world, explore through imagination, and develop your mind. The same goes for the young ones. Infant, toddler, 'threenager' you name it, they all grow each and every time you read a book to them!

So what does that look like? What can I do at home? What is my child gaining from this experience? Check out these tips and tricks...

Infants:

- It always grabs a babies attention when you are animated and smiling! Start there!
- Hold them and let them know that reading time is a time they are held and loved.
- Name animals and make the sounds they make.
- Let them lift the flaps and see what is hiding underneath.
- Name a picture that they are pointing at, this gives the word's meaning.
- Repeat books that they like or show interest in.

Toddlers:

- Create a reading routine! This could be at bed time, after dinner, or even in the morning.
- Choose books that help teach them social concepts. (ex. 'No Biting' 'Everyone Poops')
- Sing the alphabet song and point to letters.
- Point out numbers and colors.
- Let them turn the page (even if it is backwards). Allow them to choose the book, this shows repeated interest and promotes their love for books.

3 & Up:

- Try out books that reflect your daily routine or situations at home. (ex. Llama Llama Misses Mama
-)Take a walk around your local library and see what they choose, follow their interest.
- Emphasize rhyming words and words that begin with the same sound.
- Point out who the book was written by and who drew the pictures. (Author & Illustrator)
- Ask questions, let your child make predictions about what's going to happen next or what is happening on that page.
- Point and read, this teaches children that you read from left to right



Second Dose of COVID Vaccine Update!

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

We are so happy to announce that all of our Livonia employees have officially received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine!!

Last week, our teachers were greeted with a yummy bagel breakfast when they returned to the center after getting their COVID-19 vaccine.

We would like to say thank you to our team for arriving to the vaccine site early to make sure they made it back for our delayed opening. We appreciate all of our employees who helped us with a smooth delayed opening last week.

We would also like to say thank you to all of our families - THANK YOU for being understanding about our delayed opening and showing your support and excitement for our employees to get their second dose of the vaccine. We appreciate all of you and we are so excited we are able to keep our families and employees even safer in our buildings!

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

"The Learning Tree Howell as a whole is outstanding. Their ability to implement change while still keeping momentum during COVID has been nothing short of impressive. I never doubted Levi's safety returning to school, and continue to be worry free. Levi looks forward each day to seeing his friends and teachers. His comfortability is most important to me, and on top of that at 4 and 1/2 he is starting to read sight words and is able to verbalize his feelings and talk through them if necessary. This is directly related to their core curriculum. I just love this place and cannot say enough about it. Amazing staff, open direct two way communication, SAFE, higher learning for preK and under, and super fun for the kiddos! Thank you Learning Tree of Howell for being there and doing what you do!"

-Brenda S.



Come Grow With Us...At Home; Virtual Preschool

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Did you know we have a virtual preschool program and it is still constantly growing?! Each week we are getting more and more families from all different states inquiring and joining our program. While they live in all different states, all of our parents comment that they want to make a trip to Michigan to see The Learning Tree - how awesome is that?!

This past week, we hired two new virtual teachers to join our team to expand our virtual learning program with Ms. Amber.

Meet Ms. Natalie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXY0CuIXnF0&feature=youtu.be>

Meet Ms. Lily: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SxapAYwtaA&feature=youtu.be>

Are you interested in our virtual preschool program or maybe know somebody that would be?! Email our enrollment specialist at learningtree.enroll@gmail.com to learn more.

We would love to have you apart of our LT Virtual Family!

Chicken Veggie Skillet

Ingredients:

3 1/2 cups cooked chicken meat
 1/2 cup orzo pasta
 2 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil
 dried onion
 Carrots
 2 cups chicken stock
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1 cup frozen peas
 1/2 cup heavy cream
 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese



Directions:

- Pick the meat from the cooked chicken and roughly cut up and set aside.
- In a large dry skillet pan over medium high cook orzo until lightly browned; about 3 minutes stirring frequently
- Remove browned orzo to a bowl and add oil to hot pan
- Add carrots and onion sauté for 4 minutes
- Add orzo back in along with stock, garlic powder, salt & pepper. Cover and reduce heat to a medium simmer and simmer cook the orzo, about 8-10 minutes
- Uncover and add parsley, peas and cream along with cooked chicken.
- Increase heat and cook just to bring the dish to temperature and incorporate the ingredients.
- Serve with grated parmesan over the top

LT Homemade Menu!

"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.



Active Learning in Our Classrooms

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Here at The Learning Tree you will see active learning in all of our classrooms; infants - school age. Our teachers and classroom are set up with materials to help guide children to explore, interact and exercise their creative imagination through purposeful play.

Active learning is also supported in four different areas that highscope curriculum supports:

- **Adult-Child Interaction**

Some key strategies for adult-child interactions are touching, holding, play alongside at their level and pace, communicating in give-and-take exchanges verbally and nonverbally, respecting children's choices and encouraging their efforts, acknowledging children's strong emotions, and involving toddlers in resolving conflicts.

- **Learning Environment**

The classroom is organized into play and care areas that serve the needs for the age group of children where they can reach the appropriate materials needed to explore and play with their own way at their own pace.

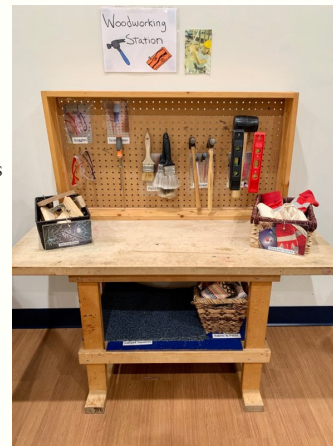
- **Schedules & Routines**

A consistent yet flexible daily routine that supports the child's age. These daily routines will give children a sense of security and stability which will create trust between the child and teacher, and also builds independence as children engage with their environment and the people around them.

- **Observation**

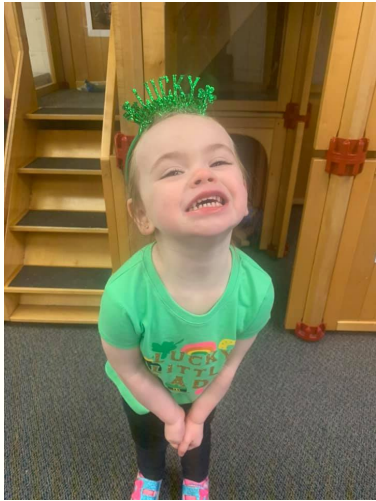
Object observations of children allow teachers to plan and build lesson plans to support the children's learning.

Overall, highscope curriculum and active learning allows children to grow and learn at their own pace and gain a great sense of independence.



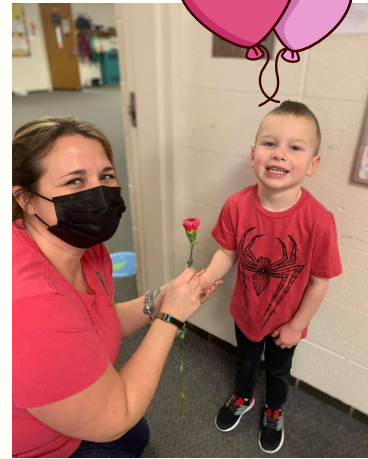
"The Learning Tree South is an absolutely awesome daycare! My daughter learns so much everyday! They have a great healthy menu, a great curriculum and my daughters favorite... a really nice playground! Mrs. Stephanie is currently my daughters teacher and she truly takes care of her like she is her own! Having a teacher who I truly feel loves my kiddo gives me a huge peace of mind everyday and we are very thankful for her!!!"

-Chelsea W.



Valentine's Party Highlights! XOXOXO

This past month we celebrated Valentine's Day in our classrooms. We had an absolute blast and wanted to share some of the pictures with you.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

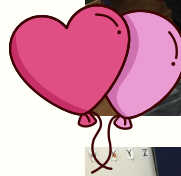


by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

St. Patrick's day is coming and we cannot wait to celebrate in our centers.

Here at The Learning Tree we celebrate with all things gold, green & rainbows. From crafts to fun group activities are LT children have a blast celebrating with their friends.

Be sure to check out our Facebook pages and the KidReport's app to join us in our St. Patrick's Day celebration this month!



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