

# THE LEARNING TREE

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



## Family Style Dining

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Here at The Learning Tree, we believe in shaping minds young when it comes to healthy lifestyle choices. One thing that we start right away is family style dining. Family style dining helps create these healthy eating habits while children sit at the same table with you.

During family style dining, children will serve themselves when possible and engage in conversations with their friends and adults. During this time the children and teachers pass food to one another and create their plate. Family style dining is a way to practice "responsive feeding", which includes letting children serve themselves and having adults sit and eat with children to model eating, give guidance on serving sizes and listen to hunger and fullness cues. Children who practice this type of dining, are more attuned to their natural hunger and satiety cues, are more likely to try new foods and are more likely to make healthier choices when seeing these choices being modeled for them.

Overall, family style dining has a countless benefits and it is one of our favorite parts of our day. There is nothing better than sitting down at meal time and having a nice conversation with your LT friends!

### IN THIS ISSUE

FAMILY STYLE DINING

MENU SAMPLING EVENT

PRE-K GRADUATION HIGHLIGHT

TEACHER TRAININGS

LT HOMEMADE RECIPE



# Pre-K Graduation Highlight

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Last month we celebrated Pre-K graduation for all five of our locations and we cannot be more proud & happy about how it went! It was a great week of smiles, memories and accomplishments. Check out some of the pictures on all the FUN we had during graduation and being able to celebrate with our families.

# MENU Sampling Event

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

Here at The Learning Tree we offer a fresh-homemade menu that is made on site by our top of the line chefs! Day after day, our chefs and cooking team put so much effort into their planning to make sure our families are provided with healthy and fresh food daily. Majority of our menu items are made-from-scratch; our sauces, graham crackers, etc. While our LT children get to enjoy our delicious menu items daily, we wanted to take the time to give YOU the opportunity to sample our made-from scratch menu items.

Here is what our families will be trying:

**Springtime Penne**

**Southwest Turkey Pasta**

**Chicken Garlic Spinach Pasta**

**Homemade Pickles**

So many delicious items that we cannot wait for you to try these items and especially get to join in on the meal time fun with our LT kiddos!

Menu Sampling Event Dates:

- West: Week of July 6th (Tuesday - Friday)
- South: Week of July 12th (Monday - Thursday)
- North: Week of July 19th (Monday - Thursday)
- Howell: Week of July 2th (Monday - Thursday)
- South Lyon: TBD!



# WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

"I love sending my Jack to the Learning Tree North. Both Brenda and Anna make me feel relaxed about having him in someone else's care all day. When we approach the classroom, Jack instantly begins to kick his feet and has the biggest smile because he knows he will be seeing Ms. Brenda and Ms. Anna. Thank you for making this first time mom comfortable with going back to work full time! Fingers crossed there are spots open for our future babies! We plan to send them all to the Learning Tree! Also, shout out to Chef Ian for serving Jack some delicious and nutritious food! He comes home full and happy!"

-Kayeleigh K



## LT Recipe Highlight!

## Field Trip FUN

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

We are about a month into our summer day camp program and we can't express how happy we are to see our day campers travel and explore new places. From metro parks to hands on museums, to zoos, and so much more our school agers are having a summer they won't forget.

Every year, our school age director and regional directors work hard to put together an incredible day camp program that includes multiple field trips weekly, STEM projects, cooking projects and more.

Summer is a time for FUN but that doesn't mean we stop the growing and learning while we are having the best time. Check out some of the fun we have had so far this summer.



Be sure to check out our Facebook pages to stay up to date on all our day camp adventures.

## Homemade Pickles!!

### Ingredients:

- 1 medium-large cucumber, peeled and sliced**
- ½ cup room temperature water**
- ½ cup rice vinegar**
- 1 ½ tbsp maple syrup**
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes, optional**
- ¼ cup fresh dill**
- 2 tbsp minced garlic**
- 1 bay leaf**
- 20 twists of fresh ground black pepper**

### Directions:

**In a sealable container mix together all ingredients and refrigerate for at least 24 hours before serving. The longer the mixture sits the more flavorful the pickles will be.**

"We have been sending our child to The Learning Tree for just over a year. Our child has been through the Toddler Room, TPS (transitional pre-school) and now pre-school. I have felt safe leaving my child in their care, knowing that she will prosper in a kind environment. Ms. Desiree is currently our child's teacher in pre-school, but also in TPS. She is very kind and genuinely cares for my child (as well as the others in her class). She has been very communicative with my child's development and is happy to answer my questions if I should have any. She really came through for our child when another kid accidentally took her favorite stuffed animal home and offered my child temporarily borrow a "princess dress" from her class. We eventually got her stuffed animal back (thanks to Ms. Mori communicating with the other family) but her ability to help soothe over a somewhat traumatic experience was fantastic. Needless to say, I am so very appreciative of all the efforts to help our child feel safe and cared for." –Lily S

# Teacher Trainings are BACK!

by Erin Detavernier, Marketing Director

You heard that right... teacher trainings are BACK!!

Last month we were able to kick off our first monthly teacher trainings. Once a month our teachers come together as a team to celebrate their achievements over the month, create a stronger bond and learn new ways of teaching to provide the best quality care to our families.

Our June meeting was one of our favorites yet...our curriculum directors hosted a great meeting going over Highscope Curriculum adult- child interactions!

Our teachers learned new ways and got a refresher on how to create the best adult-child interactions.

We are so lucky to have such an amazing teaching team. We can't wait for our July meetings!



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