

THE LEARNING TREE

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



ZOO PHONICS

by Erin Blatchford, Marketing Director

The Zoo-phonics Multisensory Language Arts Program is a kinesthetic, multi-modal approach to learning all aspects of language arts, including vocabulary development and articulation, based on phonics and phonemic awareness. The principle of Zoo-phonics maximizes understanding, memory, utilization and transference to all areas of the reading, spelling and writing process in a playful and concrete manner.

As you know, Zoo-phonics is a method developed to make children strong readers and spellers using a "phono" (hearing), "oral" (speaking), "visual" (seeing), "kinesthetic" (moving), and tactile (touching)- whole brain approach. Students actually learn the sounds of the alphabet and advanced phonemic concepts through an easily understood, concrete method of presentation.

Our teachers are very creative when it comes to Zoo-phonics and bring it to their classrooms in many different ways to help their children learn.

Be sure to check out our social media pages to see all the creative ways our teachers bring Zoo-phonics to their lesson plans. We are so thankful for our teachers and all the hard work they put into their classrooms

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KIM! 20 Years at LT!

by Andrea Majewski, Regional Director

A special shout out to one of our amazing employees!

Happy 20 year work anniversary to our "Queen Bee", our Enrollment Specialist and Hiring Coordinator KIM!! This week we threw her a surprise party to celebrate this huge accomplishment. Kim started 20 years ago at The Learning Tree and has Done. It. ALL! She can still do it all, too!

Thank you Kim for being a key member of The Learning Tree! She truly is our queen and we adore how hard she works to support, train and being her talents to us. Help us congratulate Kim on her 20 year anniversary!

Small Group

by Erin Blatchford, Marketing Director

We LOVE small group time at The Learning Tree and having it apart of our curriculum. Small group time is when children get into groups around 5-10 children to work materials that are selected by our teachers.

During small group time children experiment, explore, create, solve problems or build with materials in their own individual ways. Our teachers create these small group times by observing the children in their classrooms and create a lesson plan that is based around the children's interests and abilities.

One small group activity that we like to focus on is literacy. This is also a great time to incorporate our Zoo Phonics as what we touched don earlier in the newsletter.

We are so proud of our teachers and how hard they work on creating such amazing small group activities each and every today to keep their children engaged and learning in their classroom.

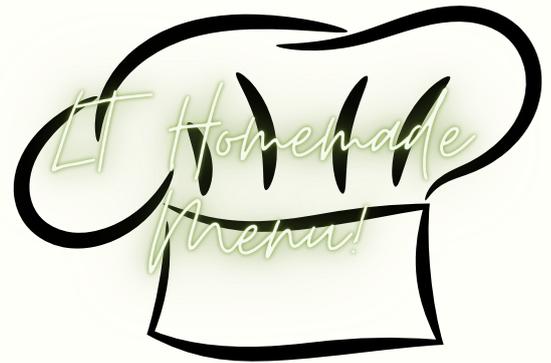
Be sure to check out our social media pages and our blog to see some of the awesome and creative small group activities we do in our classrooms.



WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING:

"Ms. Richelle is so caring, warm, and affectionate. She was my daughter's teacher in infant 3. It is always hard to leave your infant in someone else's care, but due to covid I had to leave her with a complete stranger. Ms. Richelle always made me feel my daughter was getting love and affection while away from me. Ms. Richelle has since moved up to toddlers, but still comes to visit and love on my daughter. My daughter always lights up when she sees her. "

Jenny L.



LT Recipe Highlight!

Halloween Party!

by Andrea Majewski, Regional Director

Can you believe that Halloween is right around the corner? We are planning a day of Halloween fun in our classrooms Friday, October 29th.

Teachers and children will enjoy the classroom celebration from 9:30am- 11am. We will be sure to send extra Kid Report pictures for you to see the celebration!

We can hardly wait to see all the princesses, superheroes, ghosts and more that walk through our doors. Your child may wear their costume to school that day or you may bring it and we will be happy to help them change into it.

Just a friendly reminder that The Learning Tree has a no outside food policy in order to protect our children with food allergies and adhere to our Core Values. Please refrain from sending any food or candy with your child. If you would like to bring in something special to share; pencils, stickers or other Halloween trinkets make great surprises for the children. Thanks for helping to keep all our children safe.

Let the countdown to HaLLoWeeN begin!!

Ranch Chicken & Couscous

Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ cup whole wheat pearly couscous, cooked according to package directions**
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked**
- 1 bag frozen peas**
- ½ cup homemade ranch dressing**

Directions:

Bring peas to a boil in a large pot. Once cooked, drain water and add remaining ingredients listed above and serve.

"I love the The Learning Tree North. The staff is top notch and cares so much about each and every child that walks through their doors. The company has amazing core values, they offer fun program for each age group, and they serve an organic, healthy menu! "

-Savannah E



Get Those Kids Cooking!

by Shannon Lakey, LT Howell Teacher

Many parents wonder when is a good age to get children helping in the kitchen and when is too early to start cooking. Most parents worry children will get hurt, or bored of the idea of helping in the kitchen and this is far from the case. Children are curious little beings and are always interested in what Mom or Dad are always doing. Whether it be cutting up an apple to preparing spaghetti for dinner. The answer is children can start helping out in the kitchen at the age of two years old. By helping wash the fruits or vegetables, this is a great sensory for them. They can also help carry unbreakable dishes to the dinner table. These simple tasks build motor skills in their arms.

Getting children helping in the kitchen also builds such confidence. The ability of letting them help out, will put a smile on their face as well as yours. Other skills children gain by helping in the kitchen are math skills. By counting the number of cups to measure, or how many teaspoons a recipe calls for. Cooking with others can also teach kitchen safety, such as not touching a hot stove and being careful with knives. Learning how to pour is another skill to learn in the kitchen as well.

Children two and up can help in the kitchen. This teaches Social/Emotional skills, such as confidence, following a recipe and being able to pour and mix ingredients together. Physical Development, with hand-eye coordination, chopping and spreading. Cognitive Development, such as problem solving and creativity as well as Language Development by counting, watching the ingredients change color and talking about the process. For example, when frying meat and watching the chicken change from pink to white.

By getting children cooking at an early age they are exploring with all of their senses. Touch, taste, hearing and smell. Some easy jobs for children in the kitchen would be, washing fruit, helping rinse off the dishes, adding spices and other ingredients to the dish. Mixing batter, ripping lettuce, helping assemble a pizza. These jobs will help your child feel important in the kitchen.

Here at the Learning Tree, in the School Age classroom children 5 years old and up prepare some tasty treats and dishes. These children are cutting with knives, cracking eggs, helping count, mix and pour. Cooperating with each other to work as a team to complete the task for that day. Some things they have made are yogurt cake, pizza, carrot muffins, pretzels, and many more. Most of the kids say they love cooking days because it's fun and a good time.

Don't be afraid to get your child cooking, start today!



Did you know we have a blog page?! Our blog page shares a lot of tips and tricks about early childhood education and our curriculum. We also share a lot of FUN that is happening around our centers with the children and our employees. Check out our blog page here: <https://learningtreechildcare.com/blog/>

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