
THE LEARNING TREE

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



IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

Recap of Holiday Parties • Growing Lifelong Learners
Vehicle Safety Reminder • New Recipe

and more!

HELLO 2023, REFLECTING ON 2022

We can't believe another has come and gone, but we are so grateful for 2022!

This past year, we hit a HUGE milestone and celebrated the Learning Tree's 40th anniversary in September. We are so grateful that we were able to celebrate with our families and employees throughout the full month of September by hosting parent breakfast, a family activity and an evening out for our employees with a theater show, dinner, prizes and more!

On top of celebrating The Learning Tree's 40th anniversary, let's take a look at a few other BIG things that happened in 2022:

- We hosted in person monthly teacher trainings
- Improved our menu with Sarah Remmer's, dietitian recommendations.
- Hosted parent workshops with Sarah to provide nutrition information.
- Hosted holiday parties in person with Santa, dinner and in classroom activities & concerts
- Center improvements to stay current and up to date with latest and greatest.
- Announced LT's expansion and started construction on our 6th location in Lyon Township!
- Participated in two community events in Lyon Township.
- Partnered with Roots!
- LT-South Lyon Re-Opening in our brand new building. *and more!*

We are so grateful to all of our families for choosing us and trusting us everyday.

We are beyond grateful for our team of teachers, admin, regional team, maintenance, and kitchen team who dedicate everyday to making The Learning Tree a place where we can provide the best possible care and education to our families.

We cannot wait to see what 2023 has in store for all of us. Here is to another year of growing at The Learning Tree!



**THANK YOU FOR
CELEBRATING
THE HOLIDAYS
WITH US!**

LT HOLIDAY PARTIES RECAP

We cannot thank our families and team enough for making our Holiday celebration in December one we will never forget. From holiday crafts, meals, games, Santa pictures and more... our 2022 holidays will be one we'll never forget.

Huge thank you to all our admin, regional team and teachers for making our holiday parties run so smoothly! We are so grateful for our LT team!

Check out some pictures here and be sure to check out our social media pages to see more!



Core Value Highlight

GROWING LIFELONG LEARNERS



Active Learning

Active learning is at the center of the HighScope Curriculum. It's the foundation of young children gaining knowledge through their natural play and interactions with the environment, events, and other people.

Adult-Child Interaction

Teachers act as partners, working alongside children and communicating with them both verbally and nonverbally to encourage learning.

Key strategies for adult-child interactions are sharing control with children, communicating as a partner with children, scaffolding children's play, using encouragement instead of praise, and taking a problem-solving approach to supporting children in resolving conflicts.



Learning Environments

To create a predictable and active learning environment, teachers arrange and equip the classroom with diverse, open-ended materials that reflect children's home, culture, and language. The room is organized and labeled to promote independence and encourage children to carry out their intentions.



Monthly Updates & Reminders

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR CENTERS



LT Employee Holiday Party!

The staff holiday party is BACK and we cannot wait to bring all our employees together from all five locations for a night of celebrating the holidays together. We are so grateful for our team and are working hard to plan a fun and well deserved evening out! Our staff party will be on Friday, January 27th filled with a night of dancing, dueling pianos, dinner, open bar and more!

Vehicle Safety Reminder

The Learning Tree partners with a national security company; SEC. SEC has educated us that there are incidents involving an organized crime group: Felony Lane Gang. The group called the Felony Lane Gang often commits their crimes in parking lot areas and Child Care centers are often the targets. The group's MO is to conduct surveillance and target females who leave their purses in their vehicles. Child cares are popular targets because of the propensity for women who are busy and have their hands full to leave their purses and other valuable items in their vehicle and often leave the vehicle unlocked while they run into the center.

The Learning Tree STRONGLY encourages everyone to lock their vehicles while entering the center, do not leave a purse or personal belongings in your vehicle.



Keeping our Centers Clean while being green!

Here at LT we figured out a way to keep it clean but still stay green! Teraforé products are made from 100% biodegradable, plant-based materials – which means they not only provide a safer living environment, but they're also more environmentally- friendly. We use teraforé cleaning products daily, hourly, minute by minute in our classrooms. Your kiddos deserve a clean world and a clean classroom to explore and play in, without any harsh chemicals in the air.

New Recipe to try at home!

& NUTRITION TIP FROM SARAH



Baked French Fries

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil divided
- 1 1/2 pounds golden yellow potatoes
- Yukon Gold or similar, about 4
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt plus additional to taste
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- Toppings (optional) fresh parsley, chives, freshly grated Parmesan
- cheese (or nutritional yeast)

DIRECTIONS

Place a rack in the lower third of your oven and preheat to 450 degrees F. Drizzle a large rimmed baking sheet with 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil.

Scrub the potatoes and peel if desired. Slice into 1/4- inch wide sticks. Place the potatoes in a large bowl, then pour very hot tap water over the top so that it covers the potatoes by at least 1 inch. Let sit 10 minutes.

Drain the potatoes, then transfer them to a clean towel and dry as completely as you can, changing the towel as needed. Rinse and wipe out the bowl you soaked the potatoes in, then return the potatoes to the bowl. Drizzle with the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil and sprinkle with salt, garlic powder, dill weed, onion powder, and pepper. Toss to coat. Spread the potatoes into a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.

Roast for 15 to 20 minutes, until turning golden underneath. Remove the baking sheet and flip them. Continue baking until the fries are as golden and crisp as you like, about 5 to 10 additional minutes. While the fries are hot, sprinkle with any desired toppings and a bit more salt to taste. DEVOUR.

TIP FROM SARAH

You know that theory that sugar makes your kids hyperactive? The one that we refer to after any birthday party or during any treat-filled holiday? It's actually a total myth! And one of the most pervasive myths associated with sugar. A 1995 meta-analysis in JAMA combined data from 23 experiments across 16 scientific papers. They found that "studies to date found that sugar (mainly sucrose) does not affect the behavior or cognitive performance of children."

There's literally zero science to back up this claim, yet it continues to be used by parents far and wide. Sugar doesn't make kids hyperactive, but you know what does? Excitement! Energy! Fun! Parties! Friends! The holidays! Which is all part of what makes this time of year so wonderful.

So, let your kids enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate without worrying that it's going to make them bounce off the wall—because they will likely be anyways! ;)

How to prevent hyperactivity from ALL OF THOSE SUGARY TREATS



Sugar



doesn't actually



cause



hyperactivity.



That's



a myth

New on the Blog

Recent Posts



Winter Activities to do at home!

Winter is here and whether you love or hate the cold that comes with it, one of the greatest gifts of the winter season is the time that families get to spend with one another. While the abundance of holidays and end-of-year get togethers are often a source of nice moments and memories, it's also easy to feel a little bit cooped up —particularly with little ones running around. We would love to share with you some holiday activities to do at home with your family to enjoy these times home with your family.

Let's take a look at five activities/crafts you can do at home this winter with your family:

[Read More](#)

The Best Granola Recipe from Sarah

We are so excited to bring ANOTHER delicious recipe from our menu. It is the perfect time of the year to add a little homemade delicious granola to your meals. Granola is a perfect snack to have on it's own or add it to spice up your yogurt.

Check out our blog from Sarah's delicious granola recipe.

[Read More](#)



Investing in our Teachers Future CDA Program!

One of our Core Values at The Learning Tree is "Investing in our Teacher's Future." We have a full career ladder program to promote growth in many ways but one of our favorite areas on our career ladder is investing in education. Not only does this set us apart as your family's childcare providers because we are able to have more education in our centers, it sets us apart as an employer.

Check out our blog to learn more about our CDA Program!

[Read More](#)

Celebrating Our Team!

MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



We are so lucky to have such an amazing team and we would love to give a special shout out to our teachers celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month!

Happy Birthday!

Jason, Regional Team 1/26
Rebecca, LT Howell 1/17
Cassel, LT North 1/14
Jennifer, LT North 1/22
Victor, LT South 1/12
Crystal, LT South 1/1
Amy, LT West 1/7
Savanna, LT West 1/14
Stephanie, LT West 1/21

Happy Anniversary!

Dawn, Regional Team 24 Years!
Ian, Regional Team 13 Years!
Valerie, Regional Team 8 Years!
Jessica, LT South Lyon 2 Years!
Connie, LT West 10 Years!

New Shirts!

During the month of December, we passed out new shirts for our teachers to thank them for their dedication and hard work every day at the learning tree!



3+ Years Longevity
"Heart of The Learning Tree!"



Outstanding attendance,
"Little Miss Learning Tree"



Parent Testimonials

My daughter loves The Learning Tree! Her teacher Miss Paige is WONDERFUL! We are so lucky to have her ♥ She truly cares about her kiddos, is a natural with children, and has a radiant positive energy. Not all of the teachers are equally as wonderful, and I would like to see more from the school in regards to lesson plans, what my child's progress is, etc. We would put my child in more days a week if it was more affordable. We have had a few other teachers at TLT and Miss Paige is definitely a stand out!

–Krystin D

My son has an amazing time in Ms Noreen and Ms A'Nayas toddler 2 classroom. He is usually very clingy and doesn't like being away from his parents but he never cries when we drop him off. I love the pictures they post and it is very reassuring to see him so happy/smiling throughout the day! You can tell they really care and enjoy working with the kids. Thank you both so much! 😊♥

-Megan E

Our son has been at LT since 4 months of age. He is now in the toddler room and our experience in infants and toddlers has been wonderful. He loved his time with Miss Emily in infants and now Miss Kaylee and Miss Sarah in toddlers! He is always happy at drop-off and pickup. LT has been great with adapting to covid and I have had no concerns with him being there during such unprecedented times. Their meals, activities (indoor and outdoor), teachers, location, cleaning practices, etc. have been top notch the past 1.5 years that our son has been attending. We highly recommend LT!

-Jamie Z.

We absolutely LOVE The Learning Tree West! After our tour we knew this was the right fit for our family. They go above and beyond in their cleaning practices and nutritional meals/snacks. Their daily structure with their lesson plans has been fantastic for our toddler. What she has learned in her TPS classroom with Ms. Shaniqua and Ms. Valerie is absolutely incredible. We are now excited for her new journey with Ms. Alyssa in preschool. Ms. Shaniqua and Ms. Valerie did a fantastic job preparing her for her transition into her new classroom. Enrolling our daughter into their program is the best decision we have made by far for her start to school.

-Ashley W

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