

The Learning Tree

The Learning Tree is a preschool that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit of your child.

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Holiday Parties are THIS MONTH!

The holidays are here and that means it is time for our favorite family event, The Learning Tree Family Holiday Celebration! Our centers will be transformed into a winter wonderland and we CANNOT WAIT!

OUR HOLIDAY PARTIES BRING ALL OF OUR LT FAMILIES TOGETHER TO ENJOY:

A yummy dinner for all to enjoy

Holiday crafts

Holiday games

Holiday carols preformed by each indivial classroom

AND MORE!

We will also have a very special visitor... Santa himself! Santa is traveling all the way from the North Pole to surprise the children and join our celebration. Santa will be here to take pictures with each child! As always, we don't charge for the pictures with Santa. It's all a part of our commitment to making things easier for our families!

HOLIDAY PARTY DATES:

South 12.6.2022

South Lyon 12.8.2022

Howell 12.13.2022

West 12.15.2022

North 12.20.2022

LT Families - Please be sure to check your emails for more details regarding our Holiday parties, Santa picture time, holiday concert times, and more!

Outside Time & Highscope Curriculum

HighScope Curriculum supports learning opportunities indoors and outdoors. During outside time in an active learning setting, children extend their indoor play to the outdoors where they have opportunities to learn through healthy energetic activity.

Children experience social interaction and problem solving with peers!

Be sure to follow us on Social Media to see all the FUN our children and teachers are having outdoors this winter.



Preparing for Winter!

The colder days are here and we wanted to send a quick reminder to pack accordingly with warm winter gear!

We ask that you please update your children's cubbies with extra clothing and the proper clothing for the different temperatures.

We also ask that you label their clothing to avoid items being lost.

Thank You

Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products

Here at LT we figured out a way to keep it clean AND still stay green!!

Tereaforé 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 Tereaforé cleaning products daily, hourly, minute by minute in our classrooms.

On top of using our eco-friendly and green cleaning products... We have a ZONO machine in all five of our locations and we truly couldn't be happier with how safe they keep our centers. The ZONO kills 99.99% of common viruses on non-porous surfaces and 99.9% of common bacteria on non-porous and semi-porous surfaces.

Check out our blog [here](#) to learn more.





Pre-K Family Scarecrows & Parent Involvement!

Ms. Connie, our Lead Pre-K teacher at our Livonia-West location, created a fun fall and family project that involved scarecrows. Ms. Connie's class has been learning all about scarecrows and she took the opportunity to involve the parents and families to join in on her lesson plan.

She asked for families to work with their child at home and create a scarecrow however they would like using any type of materials. They were then asked to bring in the scarecrows so we could display them around our centers for all the children and families to see!

We are so proud of Ms. Connie for creating such a great family activity that we wanted to take a moment to share with you the benefits and importance of family involvement at early childhood centers and how it benefits children.

BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement helps extend teaching outside the classroom, creates a more positive experience for children and helps children perform better when they are in school.

It is essential for parents to support the learning that happens in childcare settings at home as well. Parents who are in tune with what is happening in their child's classroom or child care facility are better able to establish a connection between what is learned at school and what takes place in the home. This connection is a key component of a child's development and supports further learning.

Not only does family or parental involvement help extend teaching outside the classroom; it creates a more positive experience for children and helps children perform better when they are in school.

Check out our blog [here](#) to learn more.



Elf on The Shelf is back in Pre-K at LT-West!

Our Pre-K class is having a blast with the elf on the shelf!

Be sure to follow us on social media to follow along with our Elf on the Shelf and see everything that is going on around our centers this December!



The Learning Tree Child Care Center-West

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Elf on the Shelf is back in PreK! ❤️ Yesterday they found their elf outside our center and decided to name her Snowy ❄️ Then today when they went outside they found her in one of our trees! 😊

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Investing in our Teachers Future

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..

Not only does this set us apart as your family’s childcare providers because we are able to have more education and room for growth in our centers, it sets us apart as an employer.

[HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE POSITIONS AND PROGRAMS WE OFFER OUR TEACHERS:](#)

CDA Program | Social Media Resident Expert | Garden Resident Expert | Essential Oils Resident Expert | Building Resident Expert | Eco-Friendly Resident Expert | Birthday Resident Expert | Coffee Resident Expert | Technology Resident Expert | and more!

Grateful for... Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Last month, we hosted parent-teacher conferences and it was such an honor to bring face to face conferences back and spend one on one time with parent and teachers. We know this doesn’t happen often, but we valued our conferences through the month of November.

At The Learning Tree, we always have an open door policy. Any time you'd like to speak with an administrator or schedule a time to discuss your child's development, we are happy to do so!

We are so grateful to all our families and their great feedback in our Fall Survey about how much they appreciated having our parent-teacher conferences back.

How to Build Comprehension Skills With Read Aloud

Reading aloud with young children and providing opportunities for them to actively engage with text is an important part of a comprehensive language and literacy curriculum.

Simply inviting children to talk during a book-reading experience is not enough to promote growth in literacy development. It’s the type of talk that matters.

Check out our blog [here](#) to learn more.





When you're a parent of a child who is going through a picky eating stage, the holidays can present some challenges, and stress. In preparation for holiday gatherings and get-togethers, I want to share some strategies to help you navigate feeding your picky eater, and making sure that they (and you!) don't miss out on the magic of the holidays.

Check out blog [here](#) to learn more.

PHRASES TO USE WITH YOUR CAUTIOUS EATER DURING A HOLIDAY MEAL

Don't feel bad

if you're not quite ready to taste or eat foods that are on the table. You're still learning and can go at your own pace. I brought some ____ that I put on the table for everyone, in case you don't feel like eating anything else tonight.

You don't have to eat

But you do need to come to the table for family time. You're welcome to visit, explore your food (play, touch, taste etc.) any foods, or just sit with us - I'll let you know when it's ok to excuse yourself

Don't worry.

I know that aunt Linda told Bobby that he couldn't have dessert unless he ate everything on his plate. Everyone has different food rules (and that's ok). You'll be offered dessert tonight regardless of how much you eat at dinner.

That was brave.

I noticed that you tried some new foods tonight. You must feel proud of yourself for tasting something new. How did it taste? Do you think you'd like to try it again at home?

Navigating Holiday Gatherings with a Picky Eater

By: Sarah Remmer

Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone (how?!), we've made—what seems like—an abrupt transition into Holiday mode. Anyone else feel that way?! All of a sudden I feel as though I have to start buying presents, organize our holiday calendar of get the decorations out. Not that I'm complaining... I love the holidays – it's my favorite time of year! And a big part of the joy for me (not surprisingly) is all of the delicious holiday food.

As a registered dietitian and mom, it's important to me that my kids learn to enjoy holiday foods without guilt, and are able to create amazing memories baking and cooking family recipes with me. Some of my fondest memories involve baking with my mom and grandma, and the delicious smells of gingerbread and shortbread coming from the oven.

Winter Activity to do at home!

WINTER SNOWBALL CRAFT

Now that the holidays are here, we would love to share with you a fun craft that you can do at home with your family to get into the holiday spirit!

For this craft all you'll need is a water bottle, white paint, container for your paint & construction paper.

For this craft, all you will need to do is dip the top of your water bottle in the paint and start making your snowballs on your construction paper however you would like!

We hope you enjoy this fun snowy craft with your family!



Soft & Fluffy Apple Cinnamon Cookies

Sarah Remmer, Registered Dietitian Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups flour (I use 1/2 white flour, 1/2 whole grain flour)
- 1 1/4 cups (120g) rolled old fashioned oats
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup butter or coconut oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup (120g) finely chopped peeled apple (1/4-inch cubes or smaller)
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two 18 by 13-inch baking sheets with parchment.
2. In a mixing bowl whisk together flours, oats, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
3. In a big bowl cream together butter and brown sugar until combined. Mix in egg and vanilla extract.
4. Toss apples with lemon juice in a small bowl.
5. Add flour to egg mixture and mix until combined, then stir in apples.
6. Scoop dough out using a medium cookie scoop, or 2 Tbsp at a time, and drop onto prepared baking sheets spacing cookies 2- inches apart.
7. Flatten them just slightly.
8. Bake in preheated oven until cookies are set, about 14 - 15 minutes.



Serving a fresh,
Organic Menu

Nutrition tip from Sarah Remmer

Do you have a child who LOVES plain pasta? I do too! It's not uncommon, although can be frustrating and worrisome too. You might wonder whether a plain pasta meal will provide your child with enough nutrition and staying power – after all, it's just carbs! Right?

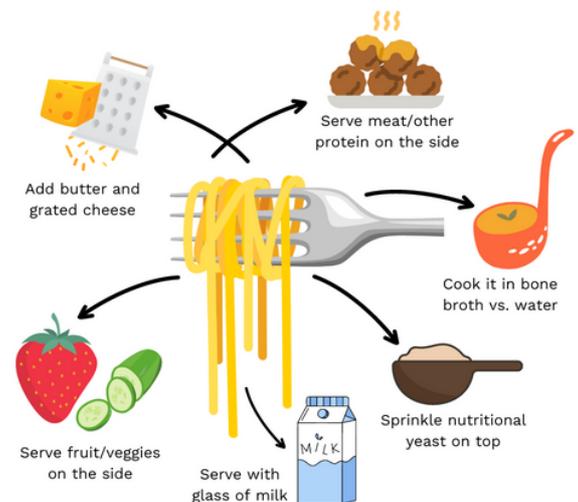
Well, your worries are valid, but I want to assure you that it's a-okay, and there are many ways to boost nutrition for these plain pasta lovers.

The thing is, pasta is actually really nutritious on its own. It contains carbohydrates, which are our number one source of fuel, as well as some fibre, and vitamins and minerals. Because it doesn't contain a lot of protein or any dietary fat, we SHOULD be adding to the meal to make sure that it's balanced. Here are some ways to do that:

- Add butter + sprinkle some cheese on top
- Serve veggies and/or fruit on the side
- Serve protein-rich foods on the side (like meatballs, beans, chicken etc.)
- Serve dinner with a glass of milk
- Cook the pasta in bone broth to add a bit of protein, vitamins and minerals
- Sprinkle the pasta with nutritional yeast to add protein, iron and other nutrients

Feel better? You should!

Got a "plain pasta" kid? HOW TO MAKE IT MORE NUTRITIOUS:



SPECIAL SHOUT OUTS TO OUR AMAZING TEAM!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Amber - Regional Team 12/12
Shelby - LT West 12/3
Valarie - LT West 12/9
Natalie - LT West 12/10
Tiffany - LT West 12/18
Zach - LT Howell 12/7
Gracie - LT Howell 12/12
Joni - LT Howell 12/19
Hanna - LT Howell 12/22
Holly - LT Howell 12/25
Richelle - LT North 12/3
Ethan - LT North 12/23
Maia - LT North 12/31
Taylor - LT South 12/7
Ashley - LT South - 12/24

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Heather - Regional Team 1 Year!
Carlyn - LT South 1 Year!
Cassandra - LT South 2 Years!
Tessie - LT Howell 1 Year!
Emily A - LT Howell 4 Years!
Aiyanna - LT North 1 Year!

Winter Activity to do at home: PINE NEEDLE DISCOVERY BOTTLE

We would love to share with you a family fun winter activity that will get you outside and exploring nature!

Materials needed: water, pine needles, bottle and hot glue.

To start your activity, head outside and start looking for some pine needles that you would fit inside a water bottle. Once you have found your pine needles, head inside and place these pine needles inside your water bottles. Next, fill your bottle up with water until the water is to the top of the water bottle. Once it is complete full, you will then take hot glue to secure your lid.

You will see the pine needles are magnified by the curves of the bottles which really gives an interesting perspective of the pine needles!

We hope you enjoy this family fun activity this winter!



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

CONTACT US

Livonia - North

LivoniaNorth@learningtreechildcare.com
734-261-1951



Livonia - South

LivoniaSouth@learningtreechildcare.com
734-525-6369



Livonia - West

LivoniaWest@learningtreechildcare.com
734-953-5708



South Lyon

SouthLyon@learningtreechildcare.com
248-446-8791



Howell

Howell@learningtreechildcare.com
517-545-3440

