The Learning Tree
Come grow with us.

THE LEARNING TREE

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

IN THE JUNE ISSUE

LT Gardens • Parent Breakfast
Career Ladder Celebrations • Day Camp Enrollment

and more!

LT GARDENS READY TO THRIVE!

The warm weather is here and we are ready to see our gardens thrive this season!

Our garden resident experts and classrooms have been working hard taking care of their seeds in the classrooms and they have now been transferred to our outdoor gardens!

We will be sharing pictures throughout the season to share with you how are gardens are progressing and all the lesson plans that allow our classrooms to be apart of our gardens.

One of our core values 'teaching a green lifestyle' is one core value we love going above and beyond with during this time of year because of how important it is to get children involved in the gardens at a young age.

The garden provides children with the valuable opportunity to learn through direct observation, exploration, and experimentation. We optimize the learning power of the garden when our lesson plans and activities support children in exploring and experiencing the garden classroom through their direct experiences!

Not only do the children experience planting and maintaining the gardens, they also get to learn about the foods we grow and turn them into cooking projects in the classrooms!

We are so excited our garden season is here and we can't wait for our gardens to thrive this season!

WATER PLAY IS BACK!

Summer weather is upon us which means WATER PLAY TIME STARTS NOW!

We are so happy to be able to offer water play activities at our centers with splash pads, sensory bins, sprinklers, etc. Water play has so many benefits in early years and we are happy to share these with you below:

WATER PLAY HELPS BENEFIT THE FOLLOWING:

BALANCE AND STRENGTH
It may just look like your child is splashing around in the water, however these splashes are actually helping improve your Childs balance and strength. In the water children are able to experiment without having to worry about crashing or falling onto hard surfaces. The water also adds a bit of resistance so water play activities work as a little bit of strength training as well.

COORDINATION
Swimming is a great way to develop muscles and motor skills that also help improve coordination. Swimming involves; kicking movements, engaging the core, and helping children learn how to coordinate both sides of their body.

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL SKILLS
Water play allows children to explore and interact with each other. Running through the splash pads and discovering new things is an awesome opportunity for social development. As children find new discoveries during water play, they get excited to communicate these discoveries and this is a huge confidence booster for kids!

EXPLORATION AND LEARNING
Different types of water play is an endless opportunity for physical experiments and discoveries. If its here at The Learning Tree and you are exploring in our water tubs, splash pads, sprinklers, etc. there is always something new to learn and discover. Even outside of The Learning Tree when you are exploring pools, lakes, oceans, etc. there are endless opportunities to learn and grow in new places.

WHAT TO KNOW & BRING FOR WATER PLAY AT LT:

Weather permitting, children will have the chance to play in the water during their outside time both in the AM and PM.

What will your child need:

A bathing suit
A towel
Water Shoes (closed toe to keep little toes safe)
Sun Screen

Please be sure to label all of your child's belongings as we don't want anything to go missing.

Growing through the Career Ladder!

CONGRATULATIONS HEATHER & KAYLA!

Congratulations Heather!

HOWELL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

We are happy to announce that Heather, Howell's Director of Teacher Development, has accepted the position of Assistant Director at The Learning Tree- Howell!

Heather has been a key member of The Learning Tree Family. She started her career at The Learning Tree- South Lyon, and re-joined our team to support teacher education growth as a coach for teachers to earn their CDA certificate through CCEI. Heather has been supporting Howell for the last few months specifically in the Preschool Program, but is a huge support to teachers at all of our locations! We are happy to have an amazing team of employees to continue to grow with our Career Ladder.

CONGRATULATIONS HEATHER!

Congratulations Kayla!

SOUTH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

We are happy to share great news with you about Miss Kayla, who was our LT-North Infant 3 Lead Teacher. Kayla accepted a promotion within our company and we are happy to announce she has joined The Learning Tree-South as their Assistant Director.

Please help us congratulate Kayla! We are so excited for her to grow her career with The Learning Tree's Career Ladder.

CONGRATULATIONS KAYLA!

Upcoming Events!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR CENTERS

Parent Breakfast

Our Parent Breakfasts are NEXT WEEK and we cannot wait to celebrate all LT parents. We are so grateful for LT parents and we love hosting our parent breakfast for a chance to show our appreciation for our LT parents, who continue to support and trust us with your children!

We will be hosting a **Good-Morning Muffin Breakfast** with delicious fresh fruit, turkey sausage and of course our coffee station will be set up for you to enjoy!

One thing we love about our parent breakfasts is being able to have Sarah Remmer, our registered dietitian, create our menu and provide us with recipes for you all to try, like the muffins that will be served!

We can't wait to celebrate with you all next week!

Music on The Grand

We are excited to share that we will have a booth set up in Lyon Township two Wednesdays this summer at Music on The Grand! We are so happy to partner with our community and be involved in some fun family events! We will have a fun table set up for families to come and enjoy an activity together while listening to music!

Join us at Inspiration Park on Wednesday, June 7th & Wednesday, August 16th from 6-8pm!

Day Camp Kick Off

Day Camp kick off is near and we can't wait for all the FUN we have planned for this summer! All day camp programs will be going on FOUR field trips per week and have one in day of STEM and cooking projects!

There is still time to enroll in our day camp program!! Please contact our Enrollment Specialist at Kim.Avendt@learningtreechildcare.com for more information!

Day Camp Kick off Dates:
HOWELL: Monday, June 5th
LIVONIA & SOUTH LYON: Monday, June 19th

We can't wait for an amazing summer!

New Recipe to try at home!

& NUTRITION TIP FROM SARAH

Easy Cheesy Mac & Cheese with Peas

INGREDIENTS

- 2 packages (about 900g) macaroni noodles (corkscrew, penne, etc. work as well)
- 4 cups (approx.) sharp cheddar cheese
- 4 cups milk
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp fresh nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground mustard
- pepper to taste
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Cook noodles as per directions on box or package
- As they are cooking, melt butter over medium heat in a large sauce pan on the stove
- Once melted, add flour and stir with spatula until well combined. Add milk little by little, stirring well until flour/butter mixture is incorporated evenly. Add cheese and stir until "saucy". Add nutmeg and mustard, and reduce heat to low and cover (stirring occasionally).
- Once noodles are cooked "al dente", add them to the cheese mixture, and combine well. Add pepper to taste.
- Serve with veggies of choice (e.g) green peas) and taste before you add ketchup! We found that it was tasty enough without it!

TIP FROM SARAH

It's normal for kids to want more than one "treat" at a time, or decide that they want more. And it's normal and ok to say "yes" without hesitation. Remember, food is eaten for many reasons beyond just nutritional value. And treat foods like these DO offer some nutrition anyways.

If you decide that it's a "no", that's ok too. But I'd encourage you--before you choose "no" --to ask yourself what your intention behind that "no" is. If it's out of fear that your child is eating another "unhealthy food" or "getting too much sugar", I'd check in with yourself about whether your fear is stemming from diet culture or not (because it probably is).

But if it's because of healthy mealtime timing boundaries, or because it's inconvenient (running off to an activity or sport), saying no is a-okay, with the caveat that the food is NOT restricted, and there will be another opportunity soon to enjoy it again. I hope these scripts help!

New on the Blog

Recent Posts

Simple (and Nutritious!) Ways to Support Your Childs Vision Health

Did you know that long-term vision health is largely determined during infancy and childhood? This is just one more reason why it's important to serve a variety of foods to our kids at meals and snacks. This includes serving colorful fruits and vegetables, protein-rich foods, healthy fats, and whole grains and starches throughout the day! As a dietitian and mom of three, I wanted to give you some specific examples of foods and nutrients that promote vision health. Keep reading for some meal and snack ideas, as well as other lifestyle tips that can help.

Read More

Reasons Behind our Organic Menu

One thing that we are truly proud of and believe in is our organic menus at all five of our Learning Tree locations! Not only are our organic menus delicious but they provide the proper nutrition for our children. We choose our food to come from the ground, which means we have to have trusted farmers who use healthy agricultural practices.

So let's take a little bit of a look at our reasoning behind why we choose an organic menu and why organic is important to us!

Read More

Tips to Close the "Hangry" Gap between School and Dinner Time

Toddlers and school-aged kids demanding snacks throughout the day is a common struggle parents deal with. As a pediatric dietitian and mom of three, I know all too well how it can feel easier to give in to the whining request for a snack, in order to avoid a meltdown. But the truth is, effectively stepping in to your role in the parent-child feeding relationship (i.e., Ellyn Satter's Division of Responsibility), means that you decide when, where, and what food is served. Your child's role is to decide if they eat, and how much without interference or pressure. See how so easily these roles can be reversed?

So, what does this mean for closing the hunger gap between school and dinner? Don't worry, I've got you!

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!

Karen- Regional Team: June 13th
Valerie- Regional Team: June 17th
Kaila- LT West: June 28th
Lisa- LT South Lyon: June 16th
Kaitlynn- LT South: June 26th

Happy Anniversary!

Hanna-LT Howell: 1 year
Dave-LT North: 4 years
Theresa-LT North: 2 years
Emma-LT South: 1 year
Morgan-LT South: 1 year

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

Why Families LOVE LT!

Highly recommend!!! Menu allows my picky kiddo to try healthy new choices! Great cuticular activities for each age. Love love love the staff!!! Absolute trust, being away from our children can be stressful and they make it look easy. I am a past employee and currently have a child enrolled. I truly support the level of care provided. It's not just a daycare, she is excited to go to "school" everyday!

-Colleen K.

I have only had excellent experiences at learning tree. The staff is extremely friendly and helpful. The classrooms are clean and have lots of activity stations for the kids. They provide great meals and also have a huge playground with lots of room for the kids to run and play. The teachers are great and invest a lot of time into the kids. My kids are learning something new every day.

-Nicholas R.

Being a first time mom, I was extremely nervous about sending our daughter to daycare. From day one, her teachers have been SO informative and loving. Specifically, Ms. Bailey and Ms. Paula. They send updates/pictures all day long through the app and also share a detailed lesson plan for the week! They are so receptive of our requests and happily give us daily updates. My husband and I could not be happier with our decision to entrust The Learning Tree West with our daughter.

-Rachel K.

The Learning Tree has been incredible for our family. They are reliable and provide updates throughout the day. The food is phenomenal and the cleaning practices are second to none. The entire staff is friendly and welcoming. Specifically, Anaya impresses us with her joyous attitude. While our son was in her class, she was able to calm him during drop off and he always made sure to say bye to her before leaving. Now that he is out of his class, he always smiles and says hi whenever he sees her. We look forward to our younger son joining her class!

-Becky E.

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