



Little Praisers May News



From the Director's Chair

Can you believe the end of the school year is almost here? I can't! It seems like we just had Christmas! Graduation is almost here, and many of our preschool students are looking forward to moving on to Kindergarten. How did they grow up so quickly? Think back to the beginning of this school year in August, and try to recall the changes that have occurred with your child(ren). For some of you, your child wasn't even born yet! I know that my kids have changed a lot this year, and I can tell how much they have grown physically as I switch their drawers and closets out from winter clothes to summer! I love watching them learn and grow, but sometimes I wish I could slow it all down.

What growth have you undergone in the last year? Have you learned something new as a parent, employee, boss, or friend? I know that I am constantly learning. Sadly, it is too often from my mistakes! I am grateful to be able to learn from classes I take, training I attend, and other directors and administrators in my field. I also learn from my co-workers and even the children here at Little Praisers. (Sometimes it takes a child to point out the obvious!) It is also vitally important that I am learning from the best source – the Word of God. God has given us all we need to know for this life – and the source is His Word, the Bible. If you are looking for new ways to learn about God's Word, you are always welcome at Praise Lutheran Church for worship and Bible classes. Worship times are available on our website at www.praiselc.org. God bless your growth in Him!

Upcoming Events:

May 7: Muffins for Moms, 6AM to 9AM in the cafeteria

May 10-11: No school for Gold Room (part-time preschool) – parent/teacher conferences

May 20: Preschool Graduation, 6:30PM (Gold and Red Rooms participate)

May 31: Little Praisers closed for Memorial Day

June 1: Summer Day Camp begins for school age students

Muffins for Moms

Moms, you are invited to join us for breakfast on Friday, May 7. When you drop off your child(ren), please plan an extra few minutes that day for this special event. We will have muffins and breakfast pastries, coffee, and milk available in the cafeteria from 6AM to 9AM that day. We appreciate you, and your kids love having a few special minutes with you. We hope you will join us! Don't worry dads, your day will be coming in June! ☺

Staff Development

Recently, Mrs. Debbie from the Purple Room and Mrs. Roxana from the Gold Room attended the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Indianapolis. They both came back with new ideas for their own classrooms and information to share with their co-workers.

A group of 19 staff members also attended training recently from Early Childhood Alliance called "Environments for Group Care". We have several staff members working on getting or renewing their

Child Development Associate credentials right now, as well. We are proud and thankful that our staff members are working hard to be the best they can be!

Preschool Graduation

The Gold and Red Rooms will celebrate preschool graduation with a program on Thursday, May 20 at 6:30PM. The children will sing a few songs and receive certificates of achievement. We hope you can join us for this special event. The program will be short, and will be followed by a reception to honor our graduates. Feel free to bring guests, and don't forget to bring your camera!

Extended Leave

Please remember that if you are planning on taking your child out of Little Praisers for the summer (or for any time longer than two weeks), you can apply for an extended leave to hold your child's spot at a reduced rate, or in the case of a school age child during summer, at no charge. Extended leave request forms are available in our family center in the front office. We appreciate getting as much advanced notice as possible, so please turn them in as soon as you are able. Thanks!

Sunscreen Forms

If you wish for your child to wear sunscreen while outdoors at Little Praisers, there is a form that must be completed and kept on file for your child. This form helps our staff to know your preferences for sunscreen application so it can be done consistently. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter, and the form will soon be available on our website and in our family center. Like other medications, sunscreen must be in its original container and labeled with your child's name. Thanks!

Toy and Equipment Donations

Little Praisers gladly and gratefully accepts donations of gently used toys and equipment for our classrooms and playground. As you clean your closets and garage this spring, please keep us in mind! We are especially in need of Little Tykes-type outdoor play equipment (slides, ride-on toys, teeter-totters, etc.). We can provide a receipt for your donation, which is tax-deductible. Thank you!

The Importance of Being Alone

Just like adults, children need alone time. When children have time to play alone, they use their imagination and develop personal interests. Even in infancy, children can benefit from (supervised) alone time. Allowing infants and toddlers to play with age- and developmentally-appropriate toys and books by themselves allows them to problem-solve and explore. Younger children will require supervision, but as children get older, allowing them longer increments of time spent alone in a safe place (such as his or her bedroom) is appropriate. If your child has a hard time being alone, start with 5 minute increments and build it up gradually. Providing a small number of safe toys or books allows your child to make choices, while preventing him or her from simply making a mess! Children who spend most of their day in a child care setting like Little Praisers, where alone time is usually not possible, still need this important type of play. Making sure we help our children to find alone time is important for them, and us!