

Little Bridges News

January 2021



Calendar of Events

CLOSED – New Years

Wednesday 1/1

School Age Holiday Camp

1/2 & 1/3
Monday 1/6

CLOSED – MLK, Jr.

Monday 1/20

CLOSED Presidents' Day

Monday 2/17

All Day Camp: School Age

Tuesday 2/18

Open House

Saturday 2/29

Enrichment Classes

Soccer Shots (3-5 yrs)

Mondays

Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)

Thursdays

Science/Math (3-4 yrs)

Varies

Private Music (K-5)

Guitar & Piano Lessons

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services & Sunday School

8:45 & 10:15

Thank You!

A huge Thank You to all the families who contributed gifts for the Harbor House Christmas store. The store was a big success, with nearly 100 families coming and shopping for their children in an empowering and dignified way. Harbor House was so appreciative when the packages were delivered and were truly moved by our community's generosity.

Year End Statements

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year means tax time is right around the corner. End-of-the-Year Statements will be emailed out to every family that has paid any amount to Little Bridges in 2019. This statement includes all payments made and our tax-ID number.

2020/2021 Re-Enrollment Forms

Look for a re-commitment form in the next few weeks. This is the only form that is needed to secure your spot for next year – it is VERY IMPORTANT that you fill this out and return it. We use this form to place your child in the correct class for the fall.

If we do not get a re-commitment form back from you, we will assume you will not be coming back for the next school year and will start reaching out to families on our waiting list to enroll for the next school year.

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a jacket or coat? Our lost and found is located in the preschool office. Please take a moment to sift through the many items that we have collected over the past few months.

What is the best way to avoid a favorite jacket from ending up in our lost and found? Label it! All labeled clothing that is found is always returned back to your child's cubbie, hook or classroom.

Kindergarten & TK Readiness Info. Nights

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is preparing for kindergarten and TK enrollment for fall 2020.

Kindergarten (must be five on or before Sept. 1st 2019)

Jan. 14th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm California High School

Jan. 16th 6:30pm – 7:30 pm San Ramon Valley High School

Transitional Kindergarten (must turn five between Sept. 2nd – Dec. 2nd)

Jan. 7th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm John Baldwin Elementary School

Jan. 9th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Coyote Creek Elementary School

What Kids Really Learn in Preschool

High-quality early-childhood programs build a firm foundation that makes it easier for children to learn to read, earn good grades, and develop productive friendships. These crucial academic and social skills are pieces to a child's inner core that stay with them the rest of their lives. Below are the ten most important things your child will learn at Little Bridges while she is here.

- 1. How to be a student.** To a visitor, one of our preschool classrooms can seem chaotic, because children are free to choose from a set number of centers activities, toys, and playmates. Yet underlying this easygoing atmosphere are many rules and routines designed to teach children how to conduct themselves in a classroom and be part of a group. Kids as young as 2 know where to put their finished art projects, how to line up to go outside, and where to sit when it's time for a snack. At storytime, for example, children can't wander away from the group or interrupt the teacher the way they might do when reading at home with a parent.
- 2. How to make friends.** Preschool offers opportunities for learning how to forge friendships and settle differences with and without the help of a parent or caregiver. Preschoolers learn how to approach other children and be comfortable around them. They figure out how to start up a conversation by focusing on the other person - by saying, 'What are you doing?' instead of 'I can build a bigger tower than that.' " This social savvy benefits kids as they get older and need to work on school projects in pairs and groups.
- 3. How to be independent.** Parents automatically tend to help their 3- or 4-year-olds with the small tasks of everyday life, such as putting on their jacket, opening their lunchbox, or carrying their show-and-tell treasure from the car to the classroom. But preschool teachers encourage students to take more responsibility. Children learn how to put on their shoes, open their own juice boxes, and remember to wash their hands after going to the bathroom. This early practice in self-care skills will help give your child confidence in other settings, such as at a friend's house, where you're not around to intervene.
- 4. How to tell a story.** Although experts believe that preschoolers should not be pushed to learn to read, young students love a good story. Children should feel that books open up the whole world to them. Preschoolers have plenty of opportunities to hear stories as well as to tell them and act them out with their friends. Listening to stories helps them grasp the concept that a plot has a beginning, a middle, and an end, and it also motivates them to want to read on their own. Children begin to realize that print is something very meaningful and powerful.
- 5. How to ask for help.** You can't have fun on the playground if your tummy hurts or there's tanbark in your sneakers but you're too timid to tell the teacher. Preschoolers develop the confidence and inner strength to speak up. Research has shown that having caring, responsive relationships with their first teachers helps children form productive relationships with subsequent teachers and other adults. Young children will approach new relationships with confidence if they've already had some positive experience in accepting authority from adults outside their family.
- 6. How to cut and paste.** Those scribbled drawings and gooey collages your preschooler brings home each week are more than expressions of his creativity. When children work with scissors, glue sticks, and crayons, they're developing the fine motor control that will help them form legible *b*'s and *d*'s and even take class notes in high school. This small-muscle development is critical during the preschool years.
- 7. How to build a block tower.** Preschool block builders hone their spatial skills and gain hands-on math experience. When children play with blocks and other 'manipulatives,' they learn to sort and classify. So, when children are building a tower and run out of long blocks, for example, they'll discover that they can use two short blocks instead. This experience gives kids a solid foundation for understanding division, fractions, and geometry.

8. **How to recognize symbols, concepts, and rhymes.** Though they may not be ready to read, preschoolers are usually able to identify numbers and letters. Kids practice saying and writing the letters in their name, reciting simple number sentences, and even learning the letters in their classmates' and teachers' names. They generally develop a useful understanding of colors and shapes -- knowing, for example, that mixing two colors will create a third or recognizing that someone's hat is shaped like a triangle. Learning nursery rhymes and songs also helps children academically. Kids who know how to rhyme will learn to read more easily, and evidence suggests that music instruction at an early age can help children in math.
9. **How to hop, skip, and jump.** Children play outside nearly every day, strengthening their muscles and developing their coordination. Running, sliding, climbing, and playing with balls are all important ways in which children learn how to control their bodies, refine their large motor skills, and develop self-confidence.
Time spent on the playground also gives preschoolers opportunities for independent problem solving ("How do I move my legs to peddle this bike?") and social interaction ("Want to play house with me?"). This free play is a very different experience from going to the park with a parent or caregiver, who will watch a child more closely, offer suggestions for navigating the equipment, and applaud every achievement.
10. **How to investigate and explore.** Preschoolers are natural scientists, and they benefit from having plenty of opportunities for hands-on, self-directed experimentation. Curiosity leads to discovery - which leads to an intrinsic love of learning. Students who always have teacher or parent-directed experiences get used to being told what to do. But in our child centered program, where children are encouraged to choose activities and classroom materials on their own, students are prepared to do the kinds of independent projects that higher grades require.