

Little Bridges News

July 2018



Calendar of Events

CLOSED - Fourth of July

Wednesday 7/4

CLOSED – Staff Training

Thursday 8/9

Friday 8/10

First Day of School

Monday 8/13

CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/3

Enrichment Classes

Science

Varies

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Soccer Shots

Wednesdays

CCPC Happenings

Sunday Services & Sunday School

8:45 & 10:15

Lunch Gathering

Sunday July 1st 11:15

Teacher Training/In-Service Days

Little Bridges will be closed on Thursday, August 9th and Friday, August 10th for teacher training/in-service days. We will be using these days to go through safety training, curriculum, and team building exercises.

Welcome Packets

All children enrolled in Little Bridges for this fall will be receiving a Welcome Packet from us in July. Please read through all the material carefully and return any forms by July 20th. The packet will contain a 2018/2019 calendar, parent handbook, new Fall tuition schedule, specific class information, bios on your teachers, daily schedules and enrichment information.

Summer at Little Bridges

Summer months may seem more lazy, but here at Little Bridges we keep up the regular school pace. Our curriculum is a year-long program that runs from August to August. We continue to build on concepts and skills we have been working on all year - however, we also believe that summer should be extra fun for kids! Out themes this summer include “Great-Get-Aways”, “Down & Dirty”, “Wet & Wild”, “Crazy Carnival” and “Park & Picnic”.

Sunscreen

Help keep your kids safe from the sun! Please slather your child up with sunscreen every morning before getting them dressed and before coming to school. We will reapply sunscreen in the afternoon. All classrooms have asked that each child have a container of labeled sunscreen available for reapplying.

Little Bridges Apparel is Coming!

We are in the process of designing some fun Little Bridges shirts and jackets for purchase. Look for ways to order these in your registration packet.

School Supply Drive

We are partnering with teachers from around the Bay Area to help children in need of Fall school supplies. Our goal is to fill 200 backpacks by this coming school year. From backpacks to pencils – anything helps! There is a donation box set up in the front office for donations.

Because I Said So

Somewhere in the back of every parent's mind is a list. We'll call it "Things My Parents Said That I Swear I'll Never Say in a Million Years." And somewhere near the top of that list - right between "What do I look like, a money tree?" and "Your face is gonna freeze that way" - is a phrase that has the power to cut short any argument and silence the whining masses: "Because I said so."

Chances are, if you're a parent, you've said it a few times, despite your intention to banish it from your repertoire. But here's the thing: "Because I said so" is perfectly OK.

There seems to be a great misunderstanding about those four old-fashioned words. Some child raising specialists consider them repressive and potentially damaging. Other experts have convinced parents that the healthy family is a democracy. This sounds good, but someone has to have the final say in any family and that someone should be an adult.

By testing boundaries, kids learn what can be done and what cannot. Therefore, the effective parent will not prevent their children from expressing an opinion nor will they forbid their child from disagreeing with them. Yet when all is said and done, one thing remains clear: Parents must make the final decisions. The bottom line is, compliance is important. It's important that children learn to obey their parents and to follow rules.

Ideally, of course, parents should provide reasons for our decisions and demands. Our goal is to teach our children to make good decisions on their own, not just when we're in the room or because we said so. But when a short, simple reason leads to whining, it's time to play the authority card. Consider this example from our home: "Taylor and Liam, it's time to pick up the living room."

"Why? Who's coming over?" (I don't know why they always think cleaning equals company.)

"No one is coming over. I'm about to vacuum and I need to the Lego's off the carpet and in the bin."

"But..."

"I said so, now do it."

Simple – they have a reason - no argument – no whining - no messy living room. Whining has never worked – so they don't even go there. Unlike some parents, I never made an anti-"because I said so" vow. So, I use it often with my children and I remind them that they are to obey me. They may protest and be upset, but I refuse to waste my time and energy explaining all the reasons I have for asking my children to comply.

We've heard it's important to communicate with children, to explain our actions and justify our decisions. But I'm not so sure that children need to know every reason behind every decision. I think children especially want reasons, most often so they can engage us in an argument that they have some chance of winning.

Youngsters have a right to know in terms they can understand, and they have a right to know only if they are willing to listen. A child probably understands about 2-3 words per year of age when disciplining, so long discussion with young children only gives a child the attention they are seeking rather than the input parents intended.

Parents should not talk through every rule, especially with young children who respect actions better than words. I love to hear parents of young children give a child five reasons why they should not choke the cat. Others will sit for minutes with a screaming child trying to explain why they must go to work. As kids get older and begin to question rules, it's okay to reason with them and to ask for their ideas. But, if the truth is "Because I said so," children have a right to know that too.

I tell parents, go ahead and give a 10-words-or-less reason for any decision you make. A few suggestions: "It costs too much", "There's not enough time", "You're not old enough", "It's time to go", "It's dangerous", "We don't believe in that."

A well-disciplined child is happy, well behaved, thoughtful, and respected by others. Children brought up without discipline usually become selfish, greedy, dishonest, unpopular, uncooperative and insecure. Undisciplined children also lose their tempers easily and are constantly demanding attention while being disrespectful to others.

No other subject in parenting is written about more but practiced less than effective discipline. Remember, when parents plead, bargain, bribe, threaten, give second chances, or long explanations, they are wishing for, not expecting, obedience. No matter how eloquent or correct a parent's explanation might be, most children see only one point of view - their own. Sometimes, it is better, without hint of threat or apology, to simply say, "Because I said so."