

Little Bridges News

June 2021



Calendar of Events

Last Day of Public School

Thursday 6/3

No school age care 6/4

PreK Graduation

Friday 6/4

Pandas 3:30 pm

Koalas 4:15 pm

Summer Camp Starts

For kids entering 1st -6th

June 7 – July 30

Donuts For Dads

Friday 6/18

CLOSED

Independence Day

Monday 7/5

CLOSED

In-Service Staff Training

Thursday 8/5

Friday 8/6

First Day of School

For Infant/Toddlers &

Preschool Monday 8/9

First Day of School

For After School Program

Tuesday 8/10

Congrats School Age Kids (and teachers and parents)

The last day of virtual learning for our Kindergarteners through 5th graders is Thursday June 3rd. It has been a year none of them will ever forget and Little Bridges couldn't be more proud of all our students and staff for adapting daily to help our kids succeed! A huge Thank You to Ms. Katelyn, Mr. Steven, Ms. Chelsea, Mr. Justin, Ms. Samantha and Ms. Tori.

Please note that the school age program will be CLOSED Friday June 4th so the teachers can prepare for the Summer Camp program.

PreK Graduation

We are thrilled to invite our PreK parents to attend our Graduation Ceremony on Friday June 4th. This will be a very short in-person celebration held in the Worship center. Keeping in mind everyone's health and safety, please wear masks, and keep your family "pod" distanced from other families.

We will hold two separate celebrations. The Panda's graduation will start at 3:30 and the Koala's will be held at 4:15.

Little Bridges will be CLOSED 8/5 & 8/6

Little Bridges will be closed for staff training days on Thursday, August 5th and Friday August 6th. We use these days to connect as a team, attend educational workshops, do safety training and get the classrooms ready for the new school year.

Fall Registration/Welcome Packets

All children enrolled in Little Bridges for this fall will be receiving a Welcome Packet via email from us in early July. Please read through all the material carefully and return any forms by July 16th. The packet will contain a 2021/2022 calendar, parent handbook, new Fall tuition schedule, specific class information, bios on your teachers, daily schedules and enrichment information. The first day of preschool this year is Monday, August 9th.

The first day of our school age program will start the same day as the SRUSD, Tuesday, August 10th.

Donuts For Dads

Dads, we want to celebrate you on Friday June 18th. Please plan on dropping off your child(ren) this day! You will have the opportunity to walk your child to class, accept a gift from them and then grab a to-go donut and coffee from the courtyard.

The Terrific Twos

Two-year-olds have long been saddled with a bad reputation. Alternately clingy, whiny, negative, fearful, and loud, their unpredictable behavior is epic, and it's often been written off as the "Terrible Twos" - which can begin as early as 18 months and last up to age three.

The Terrible Twos are often characterized by oppositional behavior, mood changes, and temper tantrums. "No" becomes a favorite word. What we need to remember is that all these behaviors are considered normal parts of child development. This is in part due to the fact that a toddler's ability to communicate hasn't caught up with his desire to communicate, hence his frustration and challenging behavior....Yes, this can be a challenging time for parents OR it can be an incredibly wonderful time for parents. Here are some suggestions to help you both get through it.

Set Clear Boundaries and Follow Through with Them

Parents want their kids to be happy. That is why setting limits, especially when we know that it will make them unhappy campers, can sometimes be difficult. Us parents rationalize that it is much easier to give in than to deal with one of "those tantrums". But follow through is the most important part of discipline even if it means your child will be upset with you for setting limits. You will know your child is pushing a boundary when you feel that he/she is trying to manipulate you. When a limit is set and your child is pushing it (i.e., bedtime), stay kind but firm by using these 3 steps:

1. Acknowledge what you are hearing: "I know you don't want to go to bed."
2. Remind them of the agreement or rule: "... but it is bedtime now."
3. Then give your child some sort of a simple choice: "So we can either hop to bed or jump to bed."

Then be ready to stick to the limit regardless of how tired or busy you are. Studies show that kids over age three that frequently push hard at limits have been taught that if they push long and hard enough, there is a pretty good chance that their parent will give in. And if you are giving in to your toddler now and your three-year-old next year...and so on...chances are you will be having a hard time enforcing boundaries to your sixteen-year-old – and believe me, **that's** when they will really push back. So as you are parenting your toddler now, think of the lasting lessons you are teaching. It will be easier (or harder) as your child matures.

Ask for the Behavior You Want

As opposed to what you don't want. Instead of saying "Don't run," or "Don't wake up the baby," you might say "Use your walking legs," or "Use your inside voice."

Offer Choices

This developmental age group is in a power surge so it is best to give them choices whenever possible. Here are some different types of choices:

- Concrete Choices: "Do you want the green cup or blue cup?"
- Playful Choices: "Do you want to skip to the bath or crawl to the bath?"
- Choices with incentives: "If we go to bed now we will have time to read three books, if you want to finish the video we will have time for one book."
- Choices with consequences: "If you choose to run away from me in the store the consequence will be we will leave the store." Reminder: Do not give a choice if you will not be happy with or be willing to follow through with it. You may need to say "you will sit in the cart" instead, if that is what you can follow through with.

Never Ask a Question if You Are Not Willing to Accept "No" as an Answer

Instead of asking "Do you want to take a bath?" say, "It is bath time, do you want to put the bubbles in or should I?"

Allow Yourself Plenty of Time

A child under age five is gifted with mindfulness. Each step is so mindful that it can drive us crazy because they put so much thought into doing "simple things," that it can take them 20 minutes to get to the car.

The Concept of Sharing Starts Around the Age of Three

Try using the phrase "taking turns" instead of "sharing" because they understand that concept better. You can help them to understand that taking turns can be fun – "My turn, now your turn!"

Two-Year-Olds Like Sameness

Try your best to establish routines around potential struggles such as bath times, bedtimes, eating, dressing and going to school.

I hope that these tools will help you to turn this potentially stormy time into a calm and fun time! For many of you, parenting is rather new so be gentle with yourself and enjoy each stage your child goes through.