

Little Bridges News

March 2018



Calendar of Events

Spring Pictures

3/13 & 3/14

School Age Min. Days

3/1, 3/2 & 3/19

Preschool Conferences

Weeks of 3/18 – 3/29

Book Fair

3/12 – 3/16

School Age Spring Camp

Week of 4/2 – 4/6

Spring Show

Thursday 4/19 7:00 pm

Teacher Appreciation Wk

5/7 – 5/11

PreK Grad Pictures

5/15

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services

9:00 am and 10:15 am

MOPS

Friday 3/9 & 3/23 9:30 am

Spring Pictures

Class and Individual pictures will be taken Tuesday, March 13th and Wednesday, March 14th. Look for specific classroom days and times and picture order forms to come home soon.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be set up in the preschool office, March 12th through March 16th. Please come in and help build Little Bridges classroom libraries.

School Age Summer Camp Registration

Little Bridges offers a fun-filled summer program for school age children ages 6 to 11 years. Our camp alternates between structured activities like academic review, science/tech projects and journal writing along with summertime traditions like crafts, organized games, swimming and field trips. Campers explore a new park every Monday, swim every Tuesday and Thursday, travel by chartered bus every Wednesday for a weekly field trip and spend Fridays on site entertained by a special guest or activity.

We are registering current Little Bridges families now and space is limited! We already have a interest list from outside families– so turn in your registration by March 9th for priority enrollment.

Cards Created by Kids

We are turning your child's artwork into "Every Occasion" cards for purchase! All cards will come in packs of 10 with envelopes and will include your child's name printed on the back. These blank cards can be used for Thank You cards, Get Well cards, Birthday cards, Thinking of You cards, the options are endless – and they are extra special because your child is the artist! All orders due March 1st and will be delivered by March 9th.

Parking Lot Safety

Please drive SLOWLY through the parking lot and be extra cautious as you back out of your parking spaces. Little ones are hard to see and can dart away from a grown up in seconds.

The green painted curb is for pick up and drop off **only** (meaning the driver does not leave the car). Please do not park here and walk your child to and from class. Blocking this area makes it difficult for others to back out of the adjacent designated parking spaces.

Well, Why Not?!

Back in the day, when my kids were in preschool, I spent most of my energy saying the word “no.” No, you cannot play with sticks with your brother. No, you cannot wear slippers to church. No, you cannot have pretzels for breakfast. No, you cannot turn the hose on to play firefighter. No, you cannot take all the pillows off the good couch.

It’s a “No” world when you’re three years old.

I’m not really sure what got me to pay attention to it, but I started to count how many times in a day I said no. And it was a lot. So much so that I lost count and started to annoy myself. In fact, I felt I was often snapping off “no” as a habit. The words would just fly out: No. Nope. Not right now. Later. No. Nah. No thank you. No. I’m busy. Why oh why was it so hard to just say the three letter word – yes.

It’s true that there were a lot of things that I simply had to say no to when dealing with my kids - especially with my boys curiosity and imagination. No, you really can’t put SweetTarts in your cereal or drop toys from the second floor landing onto Sadie (our dog). But I noticed that there were a fair amount of times when I said no that really could have been: All right. Sure. Okay. Of course. Good idea. No problem. Yes. Well, why not?

And when I did say yes, I was met with such joy and delight and surprise by my little boys. *You really mean yes, mama?* And it wasn’t for going to the park – it was for reading a book. Or helping in the kitchen. Or letting them come to the store with me. Or taking ten minutes to play cars.

With all those necessary no’s out there for my sweet, creative, curious little boys, maybe I could eliminate some of the unnecessary ones. And so, I started to try to become a “yes” mom. Yes, you can slide down that dirt hill. Yes, you can wear the same shirt 2 days in a row. Yes, you can eat spaghetti for breakfast.

Instead of thinking of reasons NOT to do something, I started trying to think of reasons TO do things. Usually, they were small things. Taylor would ask if he could play with PlayDoh and instead of automatically saying, “Not right now buddy...” (PlayDoh is so messy!) I said yes. He would ask if he could bring acorns from the yard into the bathtub. Normally, I would say no because...well...because you just don’t put tree foliage into the bath. But why not? So, I said yes.

I couldn’t say yes to every request, but how I worded my responses even changed. It was enlightening to see a difference in everyone’s attitude just by switching my wording around. “No, we can’t play Candyland until your room is cleaned up,” to “Yes, we can play Candyland as soon as your room is cleaned up.” Or, yes we can have a picnic lunch at the park, but we need to fold this laundry first. Yes, you can have a friend over, but we have to wait until tomorrow.

Waiting or having to complete a chore first taught my kids that sometimes we can’t have everything we want right when we want it. Children like working towards a goal that they have set or waiting for a specific event that they have chosen.

Something else strange happened when I started saying yes more often. The more I said yes, the more fun I had! It changed my outlook on things. I found myself looking for small little surprises that I might not normally have done before. Having a cookie at the mall from Mrs. Fields (heavenly!), blowing bubbles inside the house, eating a picnic dinner on the floor in front of a movie. Small little “yes” experiences that were just downright fun!

Try to take a break from going 90 miles an hour, and stop to really think when your children request something. Maybe you too can say, “Well, why not” more often than no.