

Little Bridges News



March 2025

Calendar of Events

Book Fair

3/17 – 3/21

School Age All Day Camp

Friday 3/14

School Age Min. Days

3/19 – 3/21

St. Jude Trike A Thon

Friday 4/4

School Age Spring Camp

4/7 – 4/11

Good Friday

Friday 4/18

Little Bridges closes at 1pm
No pick up for 1st – 5th grade

Spring Pictures

4/21 & 4/22

Spring Show

Thursday 4/24 7pm

Teacher Appreciation Wk

5/5 – 5/9

Little Bridges Zoo Day

Friday 5/16



The Book Fair is Coming

Little Bridges will be hosting a Book Fair the week of March 17th. Come shop with us in the church lobby and courtyard. Every book you purchase earns Little Bridges Scholastic book credit that we use to purchase books and class supplies.

All teachers will have "Wish List Baskets" of books that you can purchase for your child's classroom library. The very BEST gift you can give our teachers is a new book!

Early Closure for Good Friday, April 18

Little Bridges will be closing at 1:00pm on Friday, April 18th for Good Friday. Our staff appreciate having the afternoon to attend services, pray and be with family on this day of reflection.

Spring Show: Under Construction

Please join us at 7:00pm on Thursday April 24th for our Spring Show. Our children are learning about constructing a life built on God's love by building a strong foundation of faith.

Spring Pictures

Class and individual pictures will be taken Monday, April 21st and Tuesday April 22nd. Look for specific classroom days and times at the beginning of April.

St. Jude Trike A Thon

We will be hosting a St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon the first week of April. Your child will have the opportunity to ride a trike around our playground to help raise money for children with cancer.

Little Bridges Zoo Day May 16th

SAVE THE DATE! Little Bridges (Frogs, Ducks, Giraffes, Jaguars, Koalas and Pandas) will be taking over the Oakland Zoo on Friday, May 16th. Our May school theme is Dinos to Dolphins and each class will be learning all about animals. What a better way to teach than to see real animals in person!

Look for details from class Friday Emails as the time gets closer. Every child will need to have an adult accompany them, so please plan now to attend this super fun day. Meet some of your child's classmates and parents and enjoy the zoo with your class!

Raising Patient Kids in the Age of Instant Everything

One of my favorite scenes in the classic movie *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* is when spoiled and impatient Veruca Salt screams "I want it now!" just before falling into the "bad egg" pit. Her daddy is beside himself as Willy sends him off with the Oompa Loompas to rescue her. I am not so sure that dad and daughter get the moral of the story, but the idea is that our children watching should.

Most children do "want it now" – but the fact that children often "get it now" makes teaching patience difficult, especially in this instant world we live in.

Patience is a virtue that needs to be instilled in children. It teaches children the value of delaying gratification, and can help develop the ability to think through and resolve problems; it can counteract impulsivity and even acting out. The value of patience lies in its ability to lead to inner calm and emotional strength of character.

I worry that these critical "civilizing" skills are being lost in the fast-paced, point-and-click world where technology reigns. Toddlers learn how to work television and DVD controls before they know their ABCs and grade-schoolers chat with friends online. There's instant oatmeal (remember boiling water on the stove), instant pictures (remember having film developed), instant phone (remember waiting for your sister to get off and busy signals), instant cartoons (remember Saturday mornings). Everywhere children turn, they have so much power in their grip.

Impatient children can be short-tempered, ill-mannered, bossy, angry and upset which often leads to meltdowns. When children haven't been taught or given the opportunity to wait, they have a harder time empathizing with others and even coping when life becomes challenging.

Here are a few ways to encourage patience:

Make Your Kids Wait Don't always drop everything as soon as your child asks for something. Allow your child to feel the unpleasantness of waiting because it's a great change agent. By not giving them the juice immediately, for example, you'll help your child get practice in managing impatience.

Tell Your Child What They're Feeling Young children aren't able to express their frustration at having to wait for things, but you can help by labeling their emotions and offering praise when they demonstrate patience. If your preschooler has to wait his turn, you might say: "I know it's tough to just stand here. But you're doing a terrific job. You're being patient, and that's great!" When you validate your child's struggle with something, it's more likely he'll try harder.

Engage Your Child in Activities that Promote Patience. Encourage your child to do things that don't offer immediate results, like block building and puzzle solving, or board games where everyone needs to wait for their turn. Even coloring with crayons instead of markers or a doodle board takes more effort. I am not a big fan of all the high-tech gadgets that offer instant press-of-a-button results. So much more learning happens when kids work through tasks that take thought and critical thinking.

Be a Role Model You can't explain patience to a toddler, but you can show her how you practice it. How do you handle yourself when you get behind the slow person at the grocery store? Do you show patience when your scheduled day is disrupted? How do you respond to your child when she has called your name for the 500th time in an hour?

Pray with Your Kids

God is not on our timetable, and prayers are answered in God's perfect time with his perfect answer. Our life with Christ is to be lived with patience and understanding that God is above our restrictions of time. Teach your kids humility that will combat selfishness and impatience through prayer and life experiences.

Celebrate the Patience in Nature Watch the sun come up or set. Lie down at dusk so you can look up and watch the stars pop out. Plant a seed and watch it grow. Sit quietly in the woods and wait for a deer to come by. Or wait for a fish to bite at your favorite fishing hole. The beauty of nature doesn't happen instantly.

Children today live in a sound bite, instant gratification world but the wise parent counters this with many little, age-appropriate patience lessons.