

Little Bridges News



May 2019

Calendar of Events

Teacher Appreciation

Monday - Friday 5/6 – 5/10

Muffins for Moms

Friday 5/10

PreK Graduation Photos

Tuesday 5/14

Oakland Zoo Field Trip

Giraffes 5/17

Ducks, Jaguars 5/24

Koalas, Pandas 5/24

CLOSED

Memorial Day

Monday 5/27

Donuts for Dads

Friday 6/14

CLOSED

Fourth of July

Thursday 7/4

CLOSED

Teacher In-Service

Friday & Monday 8/9 & 8/12

Enrichment Classes

Soccer Shots

Mondays

Pivotal Basketball

Tuesdays

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Parent Survey – We Want Your Feedback

Please help us continue to make Little Bridges better and better by filling out our Parent Survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather your opinions about our school. Your answers are completely confidential and will be used to help us evaluate our programs.

Each family will be receiving an email that will have a link to our on-line parent survey the first week in May. Just click and follow the easy directions. All results will then be tallied through the service we are using.

St. Jude's Hospital Trike-A-Thon

Thank you to all the families who participated in the St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon. Our kids learned that they can help others who are sick. St. Jude's is the only National Cancer Institute devoted solely to children. Your contributions will help make it possible for patients to receive treatment regardless of a family's ability to pay.

Kids Against Hunger Packing Event

Join us for a meal packing event on Sunday, May 5th at 12:00 pm. Canyon Creek Church and Little Bridges families will be working together to pack over 100 meals that will be distributed to impoverished children and families in the U.S. and around the world. Children 8 years and up can participate in packing and younger children can help decorate bags in classrooms where childcare will be provided.

You must register for this event at CCPC.CHURCH. There is a \$20 per packing person fee to pay for food and distribution. Childcare you younger children is free.

Thank You Room Parents

As I write this, many room parents are organizing our 13th annual Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a special week for the staff here at Little Bridges and we would like to thank each of you for organizing, e-mailing, shopping, collecting, leading, helping and answering daily questions from your parents to make this week memorable for all of us. A special thanks to **Phyllis Acon** who coordinated the events this year. Other room parents include: Annie Matson, Noe-Marie Claraty, Katie Martin, Julia McNeil, Diana Deknoblough, Lauren Maggard, Betsy Zimmermann, Connie Joe, Grace Yang, Michelle Ritenour, and Andrea & Brett Kaja-Torres. Thank you for thanking us ☺

Muffins For Moms

Classrooms will be celebrating Moms with muffins on Friday, May 10th.. Please join your child at drop off for a muffin to say "Happy Mother's Day!"

What's So Funny?

While visiting a friend several years ago, my son, Taylor, then 1, burst into a deep belly laugh. Sure, he'd cracked up before, but this time was different. No one was making faces at him or tickling him. No one was even laughing. Instead, what sent him into a fit of giggles was watching my friend's dog jump up and down over and over again.

Though not quite as hilarious as the one-liners on *The Big Bang Theory*, a jumping dog was an unusual sight for Taylor—and therefore worthy of a hearty chuckle. At about age 1, after months of mimicking the smiles and laughter of those around them, toddlers begin to reveal their own sense of humor. Their snickers mark an important developmental milestone and are a clear reflection of the smarts they're acquiring.

I read once that sense of humor is directly linked to a child's cognitive development. Humor develops as your toddler's memory improves and he comes to understand (and recall) that the world operates in a certain way, with predictable order, structure, and patterns. When something non-threatening happens that doesn't fit those expectations—like when he tries wearing your shoes—he's now aware of the incongruity and may find the act hysterical.

I also wonder if most children inherit their funny bone from their parents. From my experience, moms and dads who have a good sense of humor generally produce kids who do too. Adults who frequently laugh or joke around serve as role models, providing ample opportunities for children to mimic humor. Even a young child learns to recognize humor when she sees her parents interact with her in ways that make her giggle, or when they recognize her early attempts at being funny and laugh with her.

Playful interactions teach your child to appreciate the lighter side of life and to see the incongruity in everyday situations. When your child laughs, use words to describe the situation ("That's a silly face!" or "Elmo's dancing is funny!"), so your child learns to apply language to a humorous event. If you laugh easily and use a warm, trust-building tone in games like peekaboo, your child will enjoy humor too.

A child's sense of humor starts when they are young, and nothing is too corny for a toddler, but here's what typically makes 1-year-olds laugh.

* **The ridiculous.** By now, your child has developed a routine and knows what to expect from her world. When you do something out of the ordinary (without frightening him), he may find it humorous. Utterly inane acts, such as wearing your toddler's pants on your head while changing his diaper (as my husband used to do), are likely to spark giggles. Those pants, he now knows, belong on his legs, not on your head.

* **The predictable surprise.** Babies and toddlers spend many months mastering the idea of object permanence: the concept that things and people exist even when they're out of sight. Games like peekaboo reinforce this notion of how the world works. Your child now knows that you're hiding behind the chair, and when you confirm her suspicions by jumping out playfully, she'll be delighted and express that feeling with laughter.

* **Incongruous humor.** Your toddler may also giggle at things that should be a certain way but aren't. First comes visual incongruity—if your child sees a picture of a dog wearing a fluffy hat, for example, she may laugh—the ability to spot this incongruity develops around the age of 18 months. Later, your child will crack up at language incongruity (like when Daddy is called Mommy). And by preschool, when humor becomes more conceptual, she'll laugh at the wordplay in a knock-knock joke.

Nurturing your child's emerging capacity for humor is like presenting him with a lifelong gift. Laughter is a mechanism for pleasure and a powerful tool for coping with life's difficult moments. While having a good sense of humor may not necessarily make kids smarter, it will definitely enrich their lives. So, laugh loud—and often—it is a healthy way for your child to manage life's little stresses.