

Little Bridges News

October 2021



Calendar of Events

Picture Days

Monday 10/11
Lambs, Frogs
Koalas, Pandas

Tuesday 10/12
Ducks, Giraffes
Jaguars

School Age Program

All day Camp
Friday 10/8

Minimum Days
10/11 – 10/15

Class Costume Parties

Friday 10/29

Food Drive

11/1 – 11/30

CLOSED – Veteran's Day

Thursday 11/11

CLOSED – Thanksgiving

11/25 & 11/26

Enrichment Classes

Soccer Shots (2–4 yrs)

Mondays

Ruff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)

Tuesdays

Art & Soul Music (K-5)

Wednesdays

Little Bridges Book Fair

Thank you to all who supported our Book Fair this past week! If you missed the in-person experience, you can still visit our virtual book fair. It will be up and running until October 5th. The link can be found on your class Shutterfly site or on our website.

A huge "Thank You" to Michelle Curtis (Taylor and Cameron's mom) and Paul McDermott (Sutton's dad and Ms. Carley's husband) for helping!

Picture Days

School pictures will be taken on October 11th and 12th. Look for picture packets to come home soon. Please complete and return your picture form to your child's teacher or order on-line.

Halloween Festivities

In lieu of our annual costume parade, each classroom will be celebrating separately this year. We will miss this all-school event, but safety is always our number one priority. There will be an outside area for parents to take before-school photos decorated in the courtyard.

Teachers will be making a class video showcasing each child in their costume while they share something about who/what they are dressed up as. Much like a share day full of imagination - your child will have an opportunity to sing, twirl, dance, roar, shoot their web, or flex their muscles for their class and the camera. Look for information from your teachers about class specifics.

Please bring your child to school in costume and bring a separate bag of clothes for them to change in to.

Community Care Pantry & Contra Costa Food Bank

Did you know that Canyon Creek Church and Little Bridges have been partnering together the past two years to provide food and household necessities to those in need? Every Monday from 10am to 11am, bags of food, household items and diapers are passed out to those in need in our community.

If you would like to help, please drop off any non perishable items any day of the week and we will get them to the pantry team. Fresh items are also appreciated and should be dropped off Monday morning before 9:30am. Thank you to all who weekly contribute to Community Care Pantry!

In November, we will also be hosting a food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Both of these services provide a perfect opportunity to show your kids how to care for others in our community.

From Scribbles to Script

Look into any of our classrooms and you are bound to see children actively drawing, writing and scribbling. Or peek at the artwork on the walls and you will see a variety of squiggles, tracing, pictures and letters. In fact, even outside, you can see chalk creations and designs covering the playground and toddler sidewalk at Little Bridges. While this may look like just another activity to keep students busy, what you may not realize is that scribbling and drawing are not only fun for kids, but putting pen to paper or paintbrush to canvas or chalk to pavement are the result of a number of cognitive and motor milestones coming together.

As soon as a baby can grasp a pencil and wave their hands around (by about 6 months) they have the ability to make marks. But there's a big difference between a random squiggle on the kitchen wall and a concerted effort to scribble. In order for your future author, artist or scribe to truly scribble and draw, several developmental issues must come into play simultaneously.

First, a child needs the dexterity to grasp a crayon or marker. Second, they need the hand-eye coordination to put pen to paper. Fortunately, there are lots of activities in your child's routine that help shape these skills. All the manipulating of objects that your baby does, like picking up playthings or putting food in their mouth, prepares their muscles for scribbling. And, finally, babies need to understand cause and effect to appreciate the fact that when they move a marker in a certain way, they get a squiggle.

In many ways, scribbling is the perfect toddler activity. There's nothing children this age yearn for more than to accomplish something on their own, so you probably won't have to encourage your child's artistic endeavors - though you may have to discourage them from using the walls as a canvas. Young children also enjoy imitating the people around them, so when children see grownups and older siblings write, they want to join in.

However, it's not until a child nears their third birthday that they start to grasp the symbolic purpose of writing - that drawn and written marks can stand for objects or words. This is called symbolic knowledge and it adds a new twist to drawing and writing. A child's marks become symbols when they show you that they represent something. For example, one of our three-year-old Giraffe's showed me a scribble the other day and proudly said "That's me!" Helping your child grasp symbolic knowledge is simple, and it's something you do anyway. Reading books together and pointing out letters, numbers, animals, and people helps kids link meaning to drawings and words.

So how does your child go from surrealist scribbles to realistic drawings of family and friends? Experts say that most children's scribbles follow a predictable pattern. Not surprisingly, they begin as random marks and increasingly resemble actual objects or printed words once your child has symbolic knowledge and stronger hand muscles. For example, at 2 a child may make long wavy lines to convey printed words. If they want to draw a person dancing, they may draw a series of squiggles that indicate movement.

Around the age of 3, everything changes. Children can now create separate shapes on paper that resemble the alphabet and string them together to represent words. The dancers transform from abstract lines into heads and bodies with tutus. Don't be surprised if you have some initial trouble interpreting your child's creations. Many children create picture or word scribbles interchangeably, or even include both in the same piece of work.

As you may have guessed, scribbling and drawing provide far more than a quiet pastime. It helps children develop an understanding of how to communicate and express themselves.