

Little Bridges News



April 2010

Calendar of Events

Dentist Visit

Friday 4/9

School Age Spring Break

All Day Camp 4/5 – 4/9

Monday – Central Park

Tuesday – Chuck E Cheese
(K thru 1st only)

Wednesday – Boomers
(2nd thru 5th only)

Thursday – Wheels Day

Friday – Sycamore Park

Trike-A-Thon

St. Jude Children's Hospital

Forms Due 4/20

Trike-a-Thon 4/21 & 4/22

CLOSED

Memorial Day 5/31

Enrichment Classes

Art & Soul (3-4 yrs)

Tuesdays

Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)

Thursdays

Science/Math/Magic (3-4)

Thursdays

Kinderdance (3-5 yrs)

Wednesdays

Soccer Shots (3-5 yrs)

Mondays

Art & Soul Music (K-5)

Piano Lessons Mondays

In the Lord's Army

Our annual spring show is coming! Our theme this year is "In the Lord's Army" and you won't want to miss this performance. All children ages toddler through pre-k will be signing with their classes on Thursday, April 15th. The show starts promptly at 7:00 pm and will last about an hour. Watch for news from your teachers about drop off times. Don't forget your cameras!

Speech and Language Screenings

Adriane Marsh, M.A., CCC-SLP, will be conducting speech and language screenings at Little Bridges on April 5th and 6th. Adriane has been with the SRVSD for the past ten years and has two preschoolers of her own. The screenings will briefly assess language comprehension, expression and speech clarity. Registration forms are available in your classroom. If you are unsure if your child needs a speech-language screening, please consult with your classroom teacher.

Thanks for a Great Book Fair!

Thank you to all who stopped by and supported our book fair. We sold over \$3000.00 in books, which means we have an extra \$1500.00 to spend on literature for the classrooms!

St. Jude's Hospital Trike-A-Thon

We will be hosting a St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon on April 21st and April 22nd. Your child will have the opportunity to ride a trike around our playground to help raise money for others in need. 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.

School Age Summer Camp

Little Bridges offers a fun-filled summer program for school age children ages 6 to 11 years. Our program alternates between structured activities such as academic review, book time and journal writing with summer time traditions like crafts, organized games, swimming, free time and fieldtrips. Campers are on-site all day Monday with special classes that include Budding Geniuses Science, Cooking and Art. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we swim at the local high school pools and every Wednesday our campers and staff travel by chartered bus for a weekly field trip. On Fridays we spend part of the day at a local park and focus on sports, organized games and outdoor crafts.

Spring Pictures

All picture money or unwanted pictures are currently over due. Please drop off payment or unwanted pictures to the office. Thank you.

Teaching Your Children Responsibility & Community Values

The first place that children learn values is within your own home. From home, your child then filters in school values, values of friends and values from the broader community. I am a true believer in raising children who give back and have an innate sense of responsibility. One of the easiest ways to do this with young children is by assigning chores. The idea that everyone should do his share is a basic value held by most of us. Participating in family chores can strengthen a child's sense of belonging and contributing to the common good. It also minimizes the chances that he will take others' efforts and contributions to his welfare for granted.

Children can start contributing to household chores when they are very young. A young toddler can be expected to help put their toys away, tear lettuce for the family salad or hand out napkins to set the table. The following are some helpful hints for young children and chores.

- 1. Make tasks manageable.** Jobs given to young children should have a defined beginning and end.
- 2. Give children chores that have obvious value to you and your family.** Simple tasks like washing a pet's food dish or folding small pieces of laundry are understandable to a young child. Remember to tell your child how useful and important his work is to the family. Let your child overhear you tell a friend how his help with the dinner dishes makes a difference in how smoothly the household runs.
- 3. Assign chores that produce pleasant effects.** These are usually more satisfying than jobs that leave little to show for one's efforts. Setting a table is more rewarding than cleaning it—the table looks nice and others can admire the work!
- 4. Teach children how to do a job.** Demonstrate first and then practice with them before you turn the task over. Share some chores with your children. Working together requires coordination and cooperation. For many children, it may be easier to be part of a team cleaning the family room than it is to clean their own rooms by themselves.
- 5. Give an incentive to finish.** Link pleasures to responsibilities—making a fruit gelatin means family members will enjoy a tasty dessert, cleaning up the yard means a place to practice kickball.
- 6. Set reasonable performance standards,** and be prepared to accept a less-than-perfect performance. If a parent constantly finds fault and redoes the task, the child's effort has no value.
- 7. Help you child follow through** on completing her assigned tasks. If your child regularly procrastinates, resist the temptation to nag! This will only incite further resistance. Instead, point out in a matter-of-fact way that you and other family members are counting on her completion of the task.

MORE THAN CHORES

Teaching a child to be responsible is more than a matter of chores, however. Reaching out to help family members or friends and people in need is another way children become responsible. Siblings can be asked to read to younger siblings, cards can be made and sent to friends, or new toys can be bought for the needy when all that birthday money comes rolling in. A kindergartner may not understand the concept of social responsibility but will understand "Bring Mrs. Brown's newspaper onto her porch so she won't have to walk so far." Learning ways to help, share, cheer up, and provide companionship to others sets the stage for developing a sense of social responsibility.

The most important way you can teach responsibility is by example. Encourage your daughter to accompany you when you go to vote. Take your son with you when you bring clothes to the Salvation Army. Explain to your preschooler that we throw trash in the cans at the park so everyone can enjoy the area. Give details to your child about our upcoming Trike-A-Thon and how their efforts can help another child. Help your child understand why you choose particular social causes and convictions – and when he is older, allow him to share why he may take exception to your position.

Helping a child develop into a responsible adult is our fundamental task as parents. By teaching our children to assume responsibility—first for himself, then within the family, and finally as a member of the larger community— your children can experience the satisfaction that comes from accomplishment and develop a healthy confidence in themselves.