

Little Bridges News



March 2010

Calendar of Events

Spring Pictures

3/8 & 3/9

Preschool Conferences

Weeks of 3/15 – 3/26

Book Fair

3/22 – 3/26

Spring Show

4/15

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

School Age Summer Camp Registration

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.

We are registering now for our school age summer camp. Please turn in your registration by March 15th for priority enrollment.

Spring Pictures

Picture Day is coming. Forms will be sent home this next week. You will have a choice of two different backgrounds and a class picture will be taken as well. Sibling pictures are also an option!

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be set up in the preschool office, March 22nd through March 26th. Please come in and help build Little Bridges' classroom libraries. There are 3 easy ways that you can help.

1. Buy books! Every book you buy earns us "book credit" to purchase more books for your child's classroom. Our profit from the total sales is **50%**! So, if you purchase \$20.00 in books, Little Bridges receives \$10.00 to spend on books for the school.

2. Purchase books for your child's class. Teachers have chosen age appropriate books that they would love to see in the classroom and have compiled "Wish Lists" that will be posted in the office. Pick a card from their list and donate it to your child's classroom library. Your child will love seeing his or her book in the classroom!

3. Purchase gift certificates for your teachers or child in any amount you want and let them come in and shop. We still earn the 50% credit on top of your gift!

Thanks for a Great Open House

Our Open House was a great success! We had a fabulous turn out and it was fun to see so many of our current families here. It was a joy to see children showing parents, grandparents and siblings around their school.

We had so many families inquiring about our program and I can say that we are officially full for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Our waiting lists are very long and continue to grow daily as people hear about Little Bridges.

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services & Sunday School

8:30 am and 10:00 am

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 him the juice immediately, for example, you'll help him get practice in managing his 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.

