

February News

The Learning Lane Tribute

The Learning Lane

The Woodlands TX

Newsletter Date:
February 2010

Happy 2010 from the Pre Academic Room!

It has been a joy to have all the students back from winter break, and they all seem excited to return to school and resume their school routine. We have already seen a lot of growth and progress in the Pre Academic room and look forward to successful goal achievements for each and every one of our students! This month our theme is Under The Sea in which we will be reading books about all our friends who live and play in the ocean! We will also be working on letter and letter sound recognition. In math we will be practicing our counting as well as giving a specific number of objects from a group.

We will be busy!



Acquisition Achievers

We are having a wonderful 2010! This month we have been working on play skills with our new play area.



The children work on pairing themselves with new toys & developing relationships with peers. We incorporate goals with playtime to expand their play skills. The children are also taught how to clean up after playing, and how to follow directions in a less structured atmosphere.

We look forward to Valentines Day with the kids, have a LOVELY February!

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Student of the Month: Alyssa...Blooming Beautifully

Alyssa is our four-year-old treasure. She loves her life and more importantly, is now full of life. Alyssa was born on Christmas Eve, 2005. She spent her first Christmas in the hospital in the exact same room where her older brother Preston spent his first days, almost six years earlier. From the very beginning, Preston and Alyssa have been in love with each other. The way in which their relationship has developed has been one of the most beautiful indicators of her miraculous journey. No sibling rivalry here! Alyssa started school at the Learning Lane in November of 2008. At that time, she spoke less than ten words, was very reserved, and engaged in very limited eye contact. She was intensely focused on order, patterns, and repetition in her life. Over the last 14 months, she has experienced a most extraordinary transformation. We went from “noticings” last summer to our current “conversations” about people, things and happenings. One of the most striking changes involves the manner in which she plays. About a year ago, she would only play with a certain set of stuffed animals and her only “playing” was lining them up in a very particular order, facing the exact same direction each and every time. Now, each night before bed, she delightfully talks to a wide variety of animals and has them (through her voice) add or subtract numbers and spell all of the colors of the rainbow. She will vary the order in which the animals speak and even provide them a rationale behind why we are asking them to spell that particular color. She then sings a song associated with that color. She and her dad do this with 12 animals each night! She now gets “it.” It is amazing that not long ago, we would look into her beautiful eyes and see such disconnectedness between her and her environment. We now see a deep intellect and can truly feel her understanding and compassion. We are still looking forward to more progress, and as anyone at the Learning Lane can tell you, she has not yet allowed this intellect and understanding to intersect with compliance and agreement! And maybe she will never will 😊. A true blessing she is, nonetheless!

An acrostic poem from Preston:

A - adorable

L - loveable

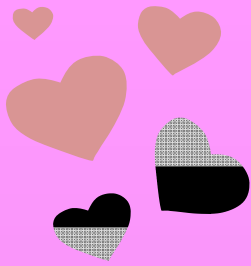
Y - yummy

S - sweet

S - silly

A - amazing





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The Art Cart

It's February already and that means we will be resuming our art classes.

February is a time of love and Valentines, not to mention a certain art teachers' birthday. We will be working on our Valentine Day mailboxes and other fun things to celebrate this fun time of the year.

Our schedule for our classes will be:

Friday Feb. 12th- Heart Collages

Friday Feb. 26th- Kooshball Painting

February should be a fun month of creativity. I'm looking forward to see what our kids will create this month.

From the Program Director-

I hope that everyone had a great holiday break! All of your children are working hard and have settled back in to the routine of school. We are continually updating their goals to make sure that they are moving along in their programs. It was great to see that after a two week break, so many of our students not only retained skills but were able to pick back up where they left off.

We will have parent training in January, February, and in March, giving you an opportunity to conference with your child's Pre Academic and Social teachers. Parent training will resume in April and continue to May.

Steph

Dates to Remember:

February 15- Holiday

March 15-19- Spring Break



Social Site

Why Is It Hard for Some Children to Learn Social Skills

Having good social skills allows people to have positive relationships with others. The "social skills" includes your child's communication, problem solving, decision-making, self-management and control, and relationships with classmates and friends. Difficulties with social behaviors may interfere with learning, teacher acceptance, and/or exclusion from school activities.

Most of us learn to use many of our social skills naturally. We do not have to think a lot about what to do or say. Others, however, do not know which social skills to use in specific social situations.

Children with, what is called "pragmatic communication deficits," have a hard time understanding other people's nonverbal behaviors and lack empathy -- the ability to relate to the emotions and feelings of other people. This lack of empathy holds them back from being successful communicators.

We've listed a Social Skills Checklist as a guide for parents to work on and practice with their children using appropriate responses to specific situations.

Do not expect your child to master these skills on their own. Parents and caregivers must model examples, talk about behaviors and expectations, and make these skills a part of their daily routine whenever the opportunities present themselves.

Social Skills Checklist:

- . Says please and thank you while making the appropriate eye contact.
- . Deals with anger and frustration appropriately without yelling or physically act out.
- . Asks questions appropriately even though the subject may be difficult for the other person to talk about.
- . Knows how to lose without melting down; shows good sportsmanship; apologizes for wrongdoing.
- . Starts conversations with others or interrupts appropriately when joining a group discussion/conversation already in progress.
- . Accepts "no" for an answer and accepts praise from others without gloating.
- . Greets others (familiar and unfamiliar) appropriately (with eye contact).
- . Follows simple and conditional directions.
- . Understands feelings of others by showing empathy or giving a compliment.
- . Seeks attention in an appropriate manner; waits for his/her turn.
- . Listens; respects the opinions of others; makes friends.

Resource: Becky L. Spivey, M.Ed.