

# The Little University News

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## Welcome To Little U!

Little University is now in its sixth month of operation! I would like to take a moment to introduce all of the families attending Little University.

**OG** and his mother and father Tamar and Lior were one of our first clients! They were temporarily living in Hillsboro while Lior was working at Intel. Last month, they moved back to Israel. OG celebrated his first birthday on February 21st! Happy birthday OG, we all miss you!

**NK** and his mother and father Reesa and John have been attending Little University since December. NK is a very active and happy 11-month-old who has started walking! He loves to "run" across the room and show off his new skills!

**EP** and his mother and father Jennifer and Geoff have also been attending since December. EP has mastered walking, and celebrated his first birthday February 27<sup>th</sup>! Happy Birthday EP!

**ES** and her mother and father Tricia and Gary have recently joined Little University. ES is a very happy 10-month-old who is on the verge of crawling! We expect to see her zipping across the room very soon.

**CG** and his mother and father Christina and Mitchell are our



**NK AND OG PLAYING**

newest arrivals! CG is 3 months old and will be the youngest member of our group! Welcome to Little University CG!

## INSIDE

- ① Introductions
- ② Infant Development
- ③ Language Development
- ④ Safety Alerts

## Infant Development Update

The month of March has been very busy for the children at Little University!

**EP** celebrated his first birthday at the end of February and he is officially a one-year-old! EP has mastered walking, can climb up and down stairs, and is able to recognize airplanes as they fly overhead!

**NK** will celebrate his first birthday on April 6<sup>th</sup>! NK has also mastered walking and will be running in a marathon next month! :) NK has many new skills emerging including opening and closing the toy boxes, saying "kitty", waving bye, and playing chasing games with his friend EP.

**ES** is getting closer to crawling everyday. She can scoot just about anywhere in the room and is now able to pull herself up to a standing position. ES also happily claps when anyone comes or goes from Little University!

**CG** is growing each day and will soon be four months old. CG loves to stand in the excersaucer and watch his friends move about the room. CG loves to smile at his friends, and he has just started to reach and manipulate toys.

With all of these fun changes and challenges going on, there is never a dull moment at Little University!

## Little University Menus

Beginning in April, I will be giving each family a menu of the foods I will be serving the children. This will help you to anticipate what your child will be eating, and it will give you a chance to alert me of any food(s) that your child has not yet experienced. I will be serving vegetarian meals that meet the USDA food program guidelines. If you have any concerns, please talk to me!

## Warmer Weather Soon...

As the sun begins to shine more and more, the children and I will be going outside to play! Soon the backyard will be equipped with infant/toddler friendly toys to climb on and swing in! If you would like to have your child wear sunscreen, please bring a container to keep at Little University. Also, please provide outdoor footwear. Socks, shoes, or slippers are fine and will only be worn outdoors.

If your child hasn't come home in a change of clothing recently, don't forget to update those "extra" outfits in their cubbies for spring weather!

## Enhancing Language Development

The following excerpts are taken from the article "Enhancing the Language Development of Young Children" in Early Childhood News, Jan/Feb 1999. Sandra Crosser, Ph.D., wrote the article:

*"The rate that children acquire language is quite varied in the normal range of development. Just as some children crawl or stand earlier than others, some children gain control over language earlier than others. Within the normal range there appear to be some shared steps to language learning regardless of the child's culture or native language. The communication process begins with what works – eye contact, looking at a desired object, reaching, and vocalizing. The prelinguistic part of language development begins with playing with saliva, blowing bubbles, vocalizations, and crying. It is pragmatic: Do what works.*

*The first word may be a noun. (Dada is easier to say than Mama is.) However, first words are more than labels for objects. First words are communicative like "bye-bye" and "uh-oh." Some words are used to convey a whole sentence. These words are called holophrases, whole phrases which are full of meaning, because they are self-contained. "Up," for example, may mean, "Pick me up now. I need to be held."*

*After the holophrase stage children begin using words in a telegraphic fashion...Most often telegraphic speech involves the pattern of noun/verb or noun/verb/object. Examples include: more apple; doggie sleep; and baby go.*

*...In most cultures adults and even older children tend to use a particular style of speech when interacting with infants. This style of speech is called parentese and it provides a scaffold for the learning of language. Parentese is not baby talk. Instead, parentese resembles the way some adults speak to pets and involves the use of slightly higher than normal pitch, exaggerated vowel*

*sounds, short and simple sentences, repetition, exaggerated stress, and pauses between sentences."*

### What we can do to help enhance language learning

The author goes on to say that a child's environment is critical to language development. She suggests simple word games, repetitive rhymes, books with colorful pictures of common objects, family snapshots, and lots of talking and playing. The author suggests the best way to enhance language learning is simply to talk with your child. By making eye contact, giving our full, undivided attention, and having a conversation that involves both talking and listening we not only help to enhance our children's language development, but we also build their confidence!

### At Little University

I have many opportunities during the day to help your child's language development. Some prime times include diaper changing, and meal times. I have a couple of songs and rhymes that I do during diaper time, and before meals we (I) sing "Open, shut them". Whenever a child breaks into spontaneous speech I try to repeat what they are saying and engage them in a "conversation". We have pictures up around the room and we will talk about the people in them, especially the ones of our friend OG who has gone back to Israel! We dance to music quite a bit and I try to vary the movements and talk about them. For example, we often shake faster or slower to the beat!

If you would like more information on language development, please let me know!

## Safety Alerts

As a Certified Group Home, Little University receives notices from the **US Consumer Product Safety Commission**. We've taken some information from recent Safety Commission Alerts and summarized it below:

DATE RECALLED	PRODUCT AND FIRM	NUMBERS/ DATES SOLD	REMEDY
6/25/97	Evenflo "Happy Camper," "Happy Cabana," and "Kiddie Camper" Portable Play Yards	1.2 million units sold between 1990 and 1997	Free hinge covers Call Evenflo 800-447-9178
11/21/96	Century "Fold-N-Go Models 10-710 and 10-810 Portable Play Yards	212,000 units sold between 1993 and 1996	Free repair Call Century 800-541-0264
11/21/96	Draco "All Our Kids" (models 742 and 762) Portable Cribs/Play Yards	13,000 units sold between 1992 and 1995	Stop use and destroy (Firm out of business)
1/1/95	Baby Trend "Home and Roam" and "Baby Express," Portable Cribs/Play Pens, manufactured before 1995	100,000 units sold between 1992 and 1994	Free repair Call Baby Trend 800-328-7363
2/17/93	Kolcraft "Playskool Travel-Lite" Portable Cribs	10,900 units sold between 1990 and 1993	\$120 refund Call Kolcraft 800-453-7673

One of the Safety Alerts goes on to say:

*Before using used nursery equipment, even if it has been used for a sibling, consumers should check the recalled product lists. Consumers can get information about recalled products in the following ways:*

- *Call the CPSC hotline, available 24-hours-a-day, at (800)638-2772.*
- *Check the CPSC web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).*
- *Receive recall notices automatically by FAX, e-mail or regular mail free of charge by calling the CPSC hotline or writing to CPSC, Washington, DC 20207.*
- *Return product registration or warranty cards so manufacturers can reach you directly if there is a recall.*

*The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from the unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800)638-2772.*

Let's keep Little University Students safe!