

The Little University News

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Here Comes Summer!

Dear Parents,

Little University is now in its 10th month of successful operation! While some of you have just joined us, others have been attending from the beginning! During the past ten months, Little U has seen many changes! We now have 10 children enrolled and two additional teachers. There is a second play room and an outside play space as well. The children are also experiencing many changes as they grow and learn about their world. Finally, the staff is learning more about infant and toddler development each day. Some information we are learning through reading books and watching educational videos (which I will review later in the newsletter), and other things we are learning from you and your children! Working with this age group offers exciting adventures each day, and I am very happy to be experiencing and sharing them with you and your children.

-Tricia Wymore

*This issue is dedicated to the Fathers in honor of Father's Day!



CG TAKES A BREAK FROM PLAYING!

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New Families

In June we welcomed the following **new** children and their parents:

JF and his mother and father. JF is a very happy one-year-old boy who is on the verge of walking!

AC and his parents. AC is a very sweet 6 month-old boy who has melted our hearts with his bright and loving eyes!

QC and his mom and Cory. QC is a very happy 6 month-old boy who has a terrific smile and loves all of his new friends!

We sadly said good-bye this month to our friend **FM** who now has his very own Nanny! Francis may drop by to play with his friends in the future.

Infant Development Update

May and June have been full of exciting surprises at Little University!

AC has been hard at work each day practicing his creeping, rotating and sitting. He can sit for long periods of time without any help! He is also able to scoot great distances using his arms and sheer will-power.



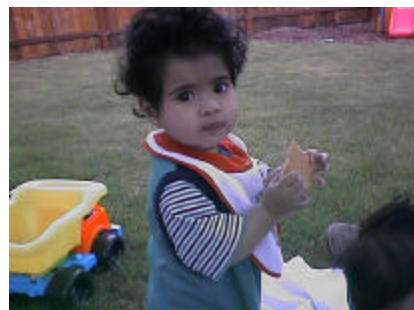
BJ returned from his vacation in Germany and he is very close to walking without any help!



CG has nearly mastered sitting up by himself and he can now be seen practicing lying on his tummy and even trying to pull himself up!



DK took her first steps in the month of June! She has very good balance and can even walk across the room while holding onto a toy or two!



EP has shown us that he is working on his fine motor skills by using markers and crayons, and putting together small link-toys!



ES also took her first steps in June! ES just couldn't wait to get up and chase her friend NK across the room!



JF is working hard to begin walking! He loves to go for walks while we hold his hands for support.



KC took his first steps in June as well! KC arrived one Monday morning and walked right over to his toys!



NK has really enjoyed our outdoor playtime! He loves to transport the bark dust from one spot to another using his tractor-trailer!



QC showed us that you don't need to crawl to get where you want to go! QC will roll over and over to get to any spot in the room!



Daily Schedule

Each day is a new adventure in the lives of infants and toddlers! While we don't maintain a strict schedule, we do try to do things in a consistent order to help the children anticipate the events of their day. Here is a rough schedule of what to expect during an average day at Little University:

7am – 9am : Arrival, greet families, play
 9am – 10am: Morning Snack (see menu)
 Diaper change*
 10am – 12 pm: Story time, singing, dancing
 Outdoor play
 12pm – 2pm Lunch (see menu)
 Diapers*, naptime for toddlers**
 2pm – 3pm: Diapers*, wake up, quiet play
 3:30 pm: Afternoon Snack (see menu)
 3:45 pm – 4pm: Diaper changes* (if needed)
 4pm – 4:45pm: Outdoor play
 4:45 pm – 6pm: Play time, say good-bye

*Diapers are checked frequently throughout the day and changed when needed.

**All children will be allowed to sleep on their own schedules. The children who are generally taking one nap per day will be encouraged to nap following lunch.

June/July Birthdays

The following children and staff celebrated birthdays in May and June:

Arwen Kuttner

JF: Happy FIRST birthday!!

If you would like to send birthday wishes to someone special, let me know and I can publish it here in the next edition!

Billing Review

Some of you may have noticed a change on your monthly billing statement. This reflects a change in how I enter the tuition charges into the accounting software. Here is a quick review of tuition charges:

1-4 Full days: \$35.00/day

5 Full days: \$30.00/day (\$150.00/ week)

1-5 Half-days: \$25.00/day

I apologize for any confusion in the past. If you have any questions, please talk to me!

Phone numbers to remember:

Little University: (503) 642-5113

Little University Pager: (503) 909-6107

Lending Library

I have several books, and magazines covering a wide range of topics in Early Childhood. I would love to share them with you on a check-out basis! Here is a partial list of the magazines I have on hand:

Early Childhood News: This magazine is put out the University of Wisconsin-Stout and is an excellent journal for keeping up to date on current research.

Young Children: This magazine is put out by the National Association for the education of Young Children (NAEYC). It also features excellent journal articles on a wide range of ECE topics.

Parenting, Child, Parents: These three magazines are available at any

supermarket and are basically similar in content. The articles are interesting but sometimes leave you wanting more detail.

I also receive newsletters from NAEYC, NAFCC, Metro Childcare, and others. If you have a particular area of interest, let me know and I can offer some relevant articles for you to check out!

Thank you Parents!!

I want to thank all of you for your cooperation and understanding regarding prompt drop-off and pick-up times! The past two weeks have gone very well. I especially want to thank everyone who called to let me know they were running early or late!

Communicating With Signs

If you are like most parents, you have experienced the frustration of not understanding what your pre-verbal child is trying to tell you. By the time your child reaches his (or her) first birthday, he may be able to say one or two words. However, his understanding and ability to recognize objects and people may be much greater than his ability to name them.

I recently read a wonderful book called Baby Signs: How to talk with your baby before your baby can talk. It is written by Linda Acredolo, Ph.D., and Susan Goodwyn, Ph.D. This book offers a technique to help adults “talk” with pre-verbal children using gestures. The signs are not from American Sign Language (ASL), but are common gestures created by adults and children in their efforts to communicate with each other. In the

introduction to their book, the authors state,

“With these signs literally at your baby’s fingertips, communication between you can flourish during that difficult time from about nine to thirty months, when your baby’s desire to communicate outstrips her capacity to say words. By increasing the number of gestures in your baby’s repertoire, the two of you can “talk” about lots more things than your baby’s few early words would permit.”

As I read through the rest of the authors’ introduction, I was quite impressed with the amount of research they had conducted. Including their own children, the authors studied hundreds of families over a ten year period. They provide several compelling anecdotes to support the use of baby signs. But as I continued reading, I began to wonder if encouraging sign use would slow the child’s progress in talking. Many parents have had the same concerns and the authors do address this in several chapters. They suggest that as you add baby signs into your interactions, you will actually be talking much more to your child, which helps engage them in conversation earlier and more frequently.

“Not only are you using words right along with the signs as you teach them, but once your baby is a full-fledged signer, you will also be responding to her own attempts to get conversations started. When she begins to look at you and “sniff” while strolling through the park, you are likely to respond, “Oh yes, those *are* pretty flowers.” When she steps into the bathtub and begins to blow repeatedly, you will whisk her out and expound on how hot the water is and how sorry you are not to have discovered it yourself. What these instances have in common is that your baby is calling your attention to things *she* wants to talk about. This is an exciting change, and like most parents, you will find it impossible to resist continuing the conversation. And when you

do respond to her efforts, the information you provide includes many samples of what speech is like and how sentences are formed. Even though your baby may choose to use a sign for a while because a particular word is too hard to say, she is certainly learning what the word sounds like, so that she can more easily use the word herself when she is able.”

Over the past few weeks we have decided to give “baby signs” a try. We chose two very important signs to begin with: milk (or drink) and more! The sign for “milk” we have used is signed by pretending to tip a cup while drinking. The sign for “more” is signed by pointing with one finger into the open palm of the opposite hand. Since we drink a great deal of milk, water, and juice, and the children often request more, these two signs seemed like a logical starting point. Nearly every time the children have something to drink we would say the word “milk” and show the sign. When a child indicated they needed refills of something (generally by throwing their cup or yelling out for food), we would ask “more?” while using the sign. The authors suggested that repetition is the key to success and they were right! ES just showed us the sign for “more” this week! She tossed her empty cup over her high-chair tray and when we asked her if she needed more, she responded by tapping her palm with a finger. We thought it might be a fluke, but over the past few days she has consistently used the sign. Her new favorite game is to take a sip of her drink, hand over her cup, sign “more”, and then take another drink!

It is important to remember that each child will get the hang of using signs at a different pace. The authors state that some children take several months to use their first sign, while others use their first sign within days or weeks. They suggest using signs around nine months and later,

since children younger than that aren’t quite ready to use and understand symbolic gestures.

We are going to continue using baby signs to help the children communicate their needs to us! It is exciting to be able to “talk” with the children, which helps meet their needs more quickly!

Introducing...our new Teacher!

I’d like to take a moment to introduce Anna Keasey, our new teacher! Anna will be a Senior at Century High School in the fall. She has cared for children in a variety of settings, especially babysitting, for the past six years! Anna volunteers her time at the Century High School Nursery where she cares for young children.

Anna will be working in the afternoons on most days, and on all day on Thursdays. Anna adds a wonderful dimension to our group and the children already love her cheery disposition!

Mark Your Calendar!

There will be a special schedule the last two weeks in July to accommodate my personal vacation. On the days that Little University is closed, no tuition will be due! Here is the vacation schedule:

Monday, July 19: OPEN

Tuesday, July 20: OPEN

Wednesday, July 21: OPEN

Thursday, July 22: CLOSED

Friday, July 23: CLOSED

Monday, July 26: CLOSED

Tuesday, July 27: OPEN

Wednesday, July 28: OPEN

Thursday, July 29: OPEN

Friday, July 30: CLOSED

Monday, August 2nd, we will resume the regular care schedule!

Little University T-shirts

T-shirts with the Little University logo are available for purchase! Children receive one T-shirt with their paid registration. If you would like an additional T-shirt, or a larger size, you can purchase one for \$7.00 (newborn through 36 mos.). Adult T-shirts are available for \$14.00 (S – XL).

Continuing Education Credit

During the last few months, I have been participating in the Early Childhood Development Program offered through the University of Wisconsin-Stout. So far, I have successfully completed Module XIII and I have received a Certificate of Completion and 10 training hours. At the end of this course, I will have accumulated 30 training hours. Module XIII covered several topics including the value of play. I reprinted a portion of one of the articles I read in the last Little University newsletter!

