



October 12	Picture Day
October 14	Spaghetti Kiddy and Premier of Kid Caboodle
October 24	Parent/ Teacher Conferences School Closed
October 31	Halloween Parade 9:15 am- Gathering Room



New Classroom for Young Twos named The Monkeys!

We have opened a new classroom for young two year-old children. It is located in the TLC hallway just next door to the office.

Kim Wieck is the teacher of five children on each day in that room. They have baked and painted cakes as well as planted and observed seeds growing. Favorite activities include playing dress up and leisurely book reading. They talk all of the time.

They enjoy recess on the big kids playground with the other two-year-olds from Kathy and Virgie's room.

Children are not born with an instruction manual. That's too bad....because I think we could all use one occasionally. *Turn to page 47 when parental peer pressure to "potty train early" gets tough.* And where exactly is that line between "self advocacy" and " being mean"? It's a painful experience for me to go to a public park on a Saturday afternoon and witness the moral, ethical, and cultural struggles of parents supporting a "positive play experience" while under the intense scrutiny of peer parents- who may or may not have read the latest advise on "how to control your child".

Here's a news flash! You cannot CONTROL your child without damaging that bright spirited shiny place in his or her heart. It is something that we all know deep down as parents, because we have all witnessed a time when a bright spot in our child's heart had to be doused with ice water because...It's time to GO.

Pleasant parenting dictates that you become an adventure detective right along with your child. The family car becomes the space ship when a paper plate is used as the child's steering wheel...

Do not mistake my message...I am not the least bit interested in creating yet another generation of overindulged, over praised and under empathetic people.

I am advocating for allowing children to be what they are BY NATURE... EXPLORERS !!!

They are not just "little me" or "little you". Do not imagine that a two year old enjoys shopping- they enjoy exploring.

Do not expect them to sit quietly in a restaurant, or on an airplane without AMPLE opportunity to EXPLORE something. I made this mistake many times in my early parenting- and probably have a small ulcer to prove it.

So please remind yourself, your park peers, and diners at the next booth in your favorite restaurant that all people start out as explorers- and goodness knows we'll need some creative problem solving explorers in the future for us all.

On Thursday September 22 the entire staff of the Technical and Training Assistance Program Office came to visit the Tot Learning Center and Preschool. This visit was primarily to recertify the center with our four star rating. All Criteria MUST be met in order to meet this high rating. On Tuesday September 27 the Director Leigh Fernandez of TTAP emailed this message: "All of the classroom criteria were met for all star levels. We are very proud of this awesome accomplishment. It is a testament to the deep dedication each and every staff member has to the children and families we serve.



What does part time look like?

For many years our part time program has been either Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, or Tuesday and Thursday. In observations of the children, most Tuesday Thursday children have more difficulty in the classrooms socially, and because play based learning is sooooo very social- learning. Don't panic if you are a Tuesday Thursday Parent- the children here now are all successful at bridging that great divide between being picked up on Thursday afternoon, spanning all the time until Tuesday morning drop off.

In chatting with the Part time Parents- it seems as though a new way of offering part time might prove to be best for families in addition to serving the needs of the young children. That is to offer a part time- mornings program Monday through Friday from 8:00- 11:30 am. For \$540 Preschool Rates and \$624 Tot Learning Center.

The plan would be to continue accommodating any family who needs to keep the current schedule- but to offer additional openings on this morning only schedule.

Also full time parent who would like to switch to the morning program would also be possible (with thirty days notice)

Please provide feedback to Maggie.

Deciding to have children is like getting a tattoo on your face. You need too be fully committed.

Elizabeth Gilbert

Parent / Teacher Conferences...Ask questions, receive wonderful information concerning the development of your child. Sit in tiny chairs, and see the progress of your amazing child. Portfolio Collections are shared during these enjoyable and informative meetings.

A review of our most misunderstood financial policies :(

- Late Fees are coming... We are tightening our book keeping procedures quite a bit, and so late fees will be assessed on the fifth day after tuition is due.
- Thirty Day notice must be given to withdraw from the program- If less than 30 days notice is provided, you will be responsible for paying for thirty days notice.
- Extra aftercare and days will be billed with the regular billing at the end of each month and due with tuition.

Welcome new families! The numbers are in- the stats tabulated- it's official!

The families of St John's TLC and Preschool are the warmest, best intentioned, supportive, and most lovely set of PARENTS ever collected in one center EVER. Your daily confidence and trust in us is so deeply appreciated and highly valued.

Little birdies keep telling me that lots of families are shopping for the high quality dependability and care we provide- PASS THE WORD: WE DO HAVE A FEW OPENINGS !!!

AT&T Cell Phone Tower Update:

Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2012...No word yet on when it might be complete.

The Pumpkins are HERE!!! The patch is a benefit for the Youth Ministries Mission trip, held each summer. Please support the youth of St John's UMC and buy your pumpkin here.

Maggie honors the annual tradition of purchasing a tiny pumpkin for each child in the center.

On Halloween we will be parading through the patch in costume- come with your camera! 9:15 am start time. Afterward...we enjoy a trick-or-treat through the church offices- we are aware of the dietary restrictions of many children.



The Children Garden prepares for the long winter sleep...

Please help yourselves to the last of the herbs in the children's garden. It's yield of tomatoes, kale, zucchini, peppers, flowers, radishes, and a few mystery plants was well loved by all of the children from turning the soil and adding grow power early in the spring...through the wonderful day of planting with so many children and families...to the generosity of time so many families gave to water and weed this summer. Strangely, each time a garden bandit would nab it. In addition to GREAT SCIENCE LESSONS-Much love and delicious snacks came from our second annual Children's Garden. Let's see what the third year might yield!

BROWN BAG LUNCH with MAGGIE-

Do you have something that you'd like to share? A burning question about why, what, how, who, where etc?



A wonderful idea that will help us be better at some aspect of early childhood education and care?

Please join Maggie on Thursday October 27 at 12:30 pm for a Brown Bag Lunch (I'll trade ya my PB&J for your ham salad any day!). Meet me in the church parlor...for answers, lively chatter, humorous anecdotes, and a good open conversation.