



LITTLE OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

We are loving the spring/summer weather and enjoying lots of outside playtime at Little Oaks! Even though it was sometimes a hassle for the adults, the children also have enjoyed watching the many different types of construction trucks that have been working on the roads around the building! Now that the work is complete, we can get back to sliding, digging, climbing, riding, running and playing!

Little Oaks Staff

We have had some staff transitions recently as college students move home or return to Knoxville, new employees are hired and other staff move on to other opportunities. Below is a list of our current staff and usual locations. Please be aware that there will be a few more changes and additions as summer arrives. If you see new faces in our hallways or classrooms, please introduce yourself and our staff will do the same!

Infant A:	Kristina, Mary & Kali
Infant B:	Pam & Miracle
Infant C:	Deborah, Stacie & Sarah
Toddler A:	Katharine & Stocha
Toddler B:	Judy, Rebecca & Dakota
Two's:	Karen, Erica & Fran
Preschool 1:	Jazmine & Rachel
Preschool 2:	Chelsey & Tahler
Preschool 3:	Ashley & Elisabeth
Kitchen:	Jennie
Floaters/Subs:	Donna, Leslie, Lois & Trudy
Office:	Beth, Kathie & Shawna



A BIG Thank You to all of the parents for showing so much support to our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and for the wonderful luncheon. It is a privilege to care for your children. We thank you for sharing them with us and for acknowledging the work we do!

Dates to Note

Teddy Bear Portraits

May 19 & 20

Pictures will be taken in the morning and families will be able to view and purchase in the afternoon. You may also view/buy on-line later BUT it is a little more difficult than ordering from Don directly on the 19th and 20th. More information has been sent home and more to come, so check your child's mailbox. If you have questions, please see Shawna in the office.

Knox County Library Summer Reading Program

Festival of Reading

May 21 (Kick-off)

The Children's Festival of Reading is the kick-off to the Summer Reading Program. Check with your child's teacher for more information and sign-up sheets for the reading program. This is a great way to encourage children to read this summer (and they have an adult summer reading program too!)

Scholastic Book Fair

May 23– 27 (possibly May 19 & 20 as well!)

Books/materials will be on display in the cafeteria for parents to view and purchase. A portion of the proceeds will come directly back to LOA for purchasing materials and books for our classrooms!

Memorial Day Holiday (center closed)

May 30

Preschool Graduation

June 26

The graduation ceremony will take place at Tennova Hospital and more details will be shared as the date approaches. Please see Ashley if you have questions.

Sick Child?

If your child is ill please remember to tell the doctor that he/she is in daycare and ask how long they may be contagious and should remain at home. Obtain a note with this information and share it with your child's teacher. This is the best practice for the health of your child and the other children in the classroom. Thank you!



Summer/Vacation Information

Please remember to submit your vacation notice to the office 2 weeks in advance. If you are planning to keep your child/ren home for June and/or July, Little Oaks offers half price tuition for one or both of those months and will reserve space for your return in the fall. Please let Beth know your plans as soon as possible!



Running Late?

Please have your child in their classroom before 10am or call our office if you will be late. We want all of our kids to get the most of out their morning activities and to make sure we have an accurate count for lunch and that everyone is ready for an afternoon nap!

Prayer at Little Oaks Academy

Little Oaks is proud of our heritage of providing quality child care to staff members of St. Mary's hospital starting in the 1960's. That service continued during the transition to Mercy Medical Center and then Tennova Hospital. In the fall of 2014, Little Oaks Academy organized as a public, non-profit organization that is not religion-based. While we respect the traditions of our past, we also welcome the diversity that makes up our center. Because of this transition, our staff no longer leads prayers before meals. Children are always welcome to say their own prayers if they choose.

The Creative Curriculum

Little Oaks Academy uses The Creative Curriculum, a research based curriculum that was used by Tennova Child Development Center for many years. The Creative Curriculum assists LOA in meeting the State of Tennessee's requirements for four hours of "free play" (extended periods during which children are afforded time to explore, create and develop thinking skills in age/developmentally appropriate learning environments). This time includes small group and individual activities as well as some whole group preschool class meetings. The philosophy behind the curriculum is that young children learn best through play, with teachers facilitating that play through materials, activities and interactions. There is a Creative Curriculum edition for Infant/Toddler classrooms and a Preschool edition as well. More information is available on our website, www.littleoaksacademy.org.

Meet the Board

Heather Fielden - President

Heather Overton - Secretary

Russell Tanenbaum - Treasurer

Stephen Russell - Member at large

Daniel Gary - Member at large

Preston Hawkins - Member at large

Katie Walker – Member at large

Beth Housley, our Director, has an open door policy and is available to answer most questions. If you ever do need to contact the members of our Board, please use the email address below for questions, comments or concerns. All Board members have access to this email account and one of them will respond promptly.

boardofdirectors@littleoaksacademy.org

Sunscreen Scoop

- ❖ Sunscreen may be easy, but it doesn't protect your child's skin completely. Try combining sunscreen with other "Choose Your Cover" options to prevent UV damage.
- ❖ Sunscreen comes in a variety of forms – lotions, sprays, wipes or gels. Be sure to choose one made especially for kids with Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher both UVA *and* UVB protection.
- ❖ For most effective protection, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. And, don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips and the tops of feet which often go unprotected.
- ❖ Take sunscreen with you to reapply during the day, especially after your child swims or exercises. This applies to "waterproof" and "water resistant" products as well.

Keep in mind, sunscreen is not meant to allow your kids to spend more time in the sun than they would otherwise. Sunscreen reduces damage from UV radiation, it doesn't eliminate it.

The American Academy of Pediatrics now advises that sunscreen use on babies less than 6 months old is not harmful on small areas of a baby's skin, such as the face and back of the hands. But your baby's best defense against sunburn is avoiding the sun or staying in the shade.