

Little Learners Events:

- Teacher Training Week
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- Costume Parade
- Thanksgiving Fun Days
- Thanksgiving Family Celebration
- Thanksgiving Program
- Christmas Celebration
- Valentine and PJ Party
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- Adventure Camps
- Father's & Friends Celebration
- Carnival
- Mother's & Friends Celebration
- Last Days of School/Ice cream in the park
- Spring/Graduation Program

Teacher Training Week: The week before school starts, all teachers will meet as a group each day at 8:30am until 12p. The afternoons will be available for working in the classrooms. Infant and Ones' rooms will be open.

Meet-the-Teacher: The Preschool will be open from 9a-12p. Teachers will meet at the school at 8a. Teachers will remain in their classroom, while families do a "Scavenger Hunt" throughout the preschool building. Once the Scavenger Hunt is complete, students will come to the Teacher to show them that the Hunt was completed. The Teachers will give the student a sticker to wear and give him/her their gift bag. After students and parents have left, teachers will clean and sanitize in preparation of the first day of school the following day.

Grandparents Celebration: We have a "My Grandpa" or "My Grandma" sheet that the children can fill out with their grandparents. There is also a sheet they can draw on about what they like to do with their grandparents. We will also have a "Friends" sheet.

Grandparents will come around 11a and join in the classroom with you. Carry on as usual, allowing for some time for the Grandparent Info sheet. For those whose grandparents can't attend, just carry on as usual. Often, grandparents will adopt other kiddos for the day.

Field Trips: Teachers will meet on location around 9:15a, and students will begin to arrive around 9:30a. Parents are responsible for transporting to and from the location. Teachers will remain with their students, unless a parent stays with their child. Field trips will go until 11:30a, at which time, students will be picked up and teachers will return to the preschool. There is no normal school on field trip days; however, the Infant and Ones' rooms do remain open. These teachers will remain at the school to care for these children. Lunch period is offered, and afternoon extended care is open for the rest of the afternoon.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher Conferences happen twice a year, once in fall and once in spring. Teachers will conduct evaluations suited to their students ages, and this is what we will present to the parents at conferences. The one in fall is to get an idea of where they are with their knowledge, and the one in spring is to see how far they have come since fall. P/T Conferences are usually held on a Monday and Tuesday nights. Each meeting with parents lasts about 15 minutes. Be prepared to be at the school from 5-8p on these nights.

Costume Parade: Students get to bring their Halloween costumes to school and show them off in a costume parade. At around 10:30/11:00a, students will retrieve their costumes, get help into them if needed, and we all meet in the large room for a parade to show all the other classes! When the parade is over, students are helped with putting their costumes away and class resumes until school is let out at 11:45a.

Thanksgiving Fun Days: The last two days of class before the Thanksgiving break consist of fun, Thanksgiving-themed activities in the big play area. There will be several centers set up, and each teacher will be in charge of a center. The children will then move from center to center for a designated time period.

Thanksgiving Family Celebration: Prior to this event, the teachers help the students fill out a “Thanksgiving Meal” questionnaire, which turns out to be quite humorous. These sheets will be hung in the big play area. (These sheets will be kept for the end-of-the-year Memory Boxes.) The family meal usually happens on a Thursday and Friday morning around 11a. Parents and teachers bring a dish to share, and Mrs. Beck provides the turkey and some side dishes! We all give thanks together in the big room with students and their families. It takes all the teachers help to prepare the morning of and for cleanup afterwards on both days. A checklist will be given with what is needed for preparation and cleanup.

Thanksgiving Program: Around the beginning of October, the students in the 3’s and 4/5’s class meet in the big play area to begin learning some Thanksgiving songs. The 2’s practice in their classroom. The Thanksgiving Program happens the last day before Thanksgiving break. The preschool will close at 4p in preparation. All teachers will work together to clean, move toys, bikes, and furniture from the big room and set up chairs for the program. A checklist will be given with what is needed for preparation and cleanup. Teachers will get an opportunity to go home and get ready before returning to the school that evening for the two programs. After the last program, teachers stay to help take down the chairs, tables, replace any furniture, and put the classrooms back in order. All teachers leave together at the end of the evening.

Christmas Celebration: The last two days before Christmas break, the students will decorate cookies in their classrooms. All the supplies and decorations are organized for the teachers. Christian Christmas stories should be read on these days, just to remind our students of the real meaning of Christmas. Teachers should also consider purchasing/making small gifts for their students, though this isn’t a requirement.

Valentine and PJ Party: Leading up to and including the day of, students and Teachers can wear pj’s to preschool the two days of the party. Teachers will be provided with paper bags and decorations (foam stickers, etc.) for the students to decorate their valentine bags. The teachers will then set out each bag and help the students, one-by-one, drop their valentines into the bags. When all the classes have finished filling their valentine’s bags, we will meet in the big play area to watch a valentine movie together.

Graduation/School Pictures: A photographer comes to the school two mornings in a row, usually a Thursday and Friday. They will set up the photography equipment in the big room and call on the individual classes one-by-one to come and get their pictures taken. This tends to last from around 9:30-11a. Recess will not happen in the big room these 2 days. And snacks will consist of simple, non-messy foods. It's also important to not do any messy crafts these 2 days.

Adventure Camps: Adventure Camps happen when regular school is not in session. For example, during Spring Break, we are not in session, but we do offer Adventure Camp for parents who still need childcare. Teachers' schedules will be different during camps. A sign-up sheet will be given for each teacher to choose the shifts they want to work, and then a final schedule will be given out before Adventure Camp begins. You aren't guaranteed the shifts you want, but we try to accommodate everyone's choices. Adventure Camps run the same schedule as class days, 8:45-11:45a. After which time, we offer afternoon extended care as usual.

Fathers & Friends Celebration: For this celebration, the Lincoln Fire Department will come on a Thursday and Friday morning to talk to everyone about fire safety, put on their fire equipment to show the children, and give a tour of the firetruck. This usually starts around 10:45a. We will all meet in the big room for the presentation. After the Fire Fighters leave, visitors are encouraged to join the children in their classroom to make a craft together.

Carnival: The Carnival is all hand's on deck! A checklist will be given out for teachers to prepare. Cleaning, set up, booth assignments, tear down, cleanup - - it's a fun, but busy evening. The preschool will close at 2:45p this day. Teachers will get a chance to go home and return before the Carnival starts at 6p. The Carnival ends at 8p, but please expect to stay until at least 9p for tear-down and cleanup.

Mothers & Friends Celebration: Prior to this event, every student makes a special gift for their mother. This gift usually consists of a handprint on a tile. All supplies and instructions will be provided ahead of time. The other project done ahead of time is a "About My Mother" sheet, which we will hang in the big room prior to the event. The Mothers' Day reception starts at 11a, usually on a Thursday and Friday morning. Everyone comes out to the big room. We will have tables set up and refreshments in the kitchen. Then after eating, the students will do a make-and-take craft with their Moms or Friends.

Ice Cream in the Park/Last Days of School: The last 2 days of school, we walk to the nearby park and have ice cream! All the teachers will stay with their class, but will also help keep an eye on all students while walking to and from, and while at the park. When arriving at the park, teachers need to spread out around the perimeter of the playground and keep all students off the grass. We will leave the school around 9:45a and return to the school around 11:30a.

Spring/Graduation Program: Around the beginning of March, the students in the 3's and 4/5's class meet in the big play area to begin learning some end-of-the-year songs. The 2's practice in their classroom. The Spring/Graduation Program happens the day after school ends in May. All teachers will work together to clean, move toys, bikes, and furniture from the big room and set up chairs for the program. A checklist will be given with what is needed for preparation and cleanup. Teachers will get an opportunity to go home and get ready before returning to the school that evening for the two programs. After the last program, teachers stay to help take down the chairs, tables, replace any furniture, and put the classrooms back in order. All teachers leave together at the end of the evening.