

We have over
210 pre-enrolled!



We are so excited that you have chosen to pre-enroll your child with the Little Green Tree House and we have some exciting updates and progress to share with you!

May, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

Construction Progress

Robert Kumicich, Construction Manager, Supreme Contractors, Inc

Construction of the Little Green Tree House began in February after we received our building permit from the City Of Chicago. First, we started installing the new structural steel for the mezzanine level which will house our staff offices and our incredible indoor play area and our very own Little Green Tree House for all the children to enjoy. Once all of the steel was installed we fastened metal decking to the top of the structural steel and then poured light weight concrete on top of the decking.

After that work was completed the interior walls were laid out and built. All of the interior rough mechanical piping has been installed throughout the entire day care space. Our heating and air conditioning and electrical subcontractors have been approved for rough inspections through the City of Chicago's Building Department and drywall installation is well underway. As final drywall is installed our tapers/finishers are applying taping mud to the walls so that painting can begin

soon. Once all of the sanding is complete and the painting is done all of the cabinets, counter tops, carpeting, floor tiles and other final finishes will begin. In addition, all of the knotty pine doors and trim will be installed.

The great thing about all of our construction is that each aspect was carefully considered for its eco-friendly properties. We are very proud of our determination to use those products that are not only eco-friendly but also are safe, sound and of excellent quality.

Subject to timely approvals by the City of Chicago Building Department and DCFS, we are scheduled to open June 17th, 2009.

Special points of interest:

- CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS
- TEACHERS, ASSISTANT TEACHERS, AIDES OH MY!

Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Aides ... oh my

Esmilyn Johnson, Assistant Director of Education

Over the last several weeks we have hired some exceptional teachers with excellent credentials who have great personalities and love

working with young children. Our Lead Teachers have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. The Pre-K and Pre-

School Teachers have an advanced degree, which is a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education with a Type 04 Certification in Education. Continued on page 3

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When the time is right—the Requirements for Enrollment are ...

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations



To prepare you for the time of when we can officially enroll children, we thought these tips might help the process.

When you enroll your child at the Little Green Tree House there will be neces-

sary paperwork that must be filled out prior to your child being able to attend the program. A completed registration application form and the non-refundable registration fee must be submitted, as well as, all necessary paperwork.

All paperwork should be completed promptly and

returned to the Director of Education. **As of April 30, 2009 Illinois Department of Children & Family Services** “proposes a change to Part 407, Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers. **Birth Certificates** – To comply with The Missing Children Records Act [325 ILCS 50/5], the Department will require that day care

A friendly reminder: child medical forms must be completed by a physician prior to enrolling you child in any child care facility. Be sure to schedule your appointment soon!

Medical Forms are available on our website.

Paperless Accounting

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations

'what a child can do today with assistance, she will be able to do by herself tomorrow'. Lev Vygotsky

In an effort to streamline our procedures, The Little Green Tree House will not accept cash or checks. We have implemented the EZ-EFT for **Convenience** – it eliminates the hassle of paying your bills. Automatic Payments mean you never have to remember to write a check for child care fees again. **Control** – You determine the method of pay-

ment. And you can cancel the service for any reason, at any time. **Security-** EZ-EFT uses the Federal Reserve's electronic payment network used by financial institutions nationwide. Consumer safeguard regulations for electronic payments are even more stringent than for payment checks.

More information on this process will be in our enrollment packet which you will receive when you begin the process of officially enrolling your child.

AHP Cleaning Technology

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations

Disinfecting and sanitizing is very important and strict in childcare centers to lessen the spread of bacteria and microbial diseases. The Little Green Tree House promotes an eco-friendly lifestyle and it was difficult to find a cleaning product that met both our and DCFS's requirements. It was an interesting

transition for our DCFS representative to release to the notion we do not have to use bleach in our center.

We found a product that suits our needs, as well as, meets and exceeds the standards of DCFS requirements for disinfecting and sanitizing. AHP technology which contains the active ingredient hydrogen

peroxide, is a new hydrogen peroxide based, green certified, near neutral general purpose cleaner and is our choice for our center's cleaning product. AHP technology offers many benefits: the active ingredient (hydrogen peroxide) breaks down to water and oxygen; it is an excellent surface safety profile, especially when compared to

chlorinated products; it has low odor and does not require added fragrances; and the solutions are essentially non-irritating. One cleaner can be used for a lot of different surfaces.

Contains no VOC's (volatile organic compound) or APEO's (Alkylphenol ethoxylates).

Special skill set of Teachers hired ... continued from page 1

The Pre-K and Pre-School Teachers have the educational background and experience to teach in a public school setting; furthermore, they have what it takes to get our Pre-K and Pre-School students ready for Kindergarten. Our Assistant Teachers have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or are currently working towards their degree. The Floaters (Teacher's Aides) have experience working with

young children in addition to 6 credit hours of Early Childhood Education. Teachers are excited and cannot wait to get started.

Many of our teachers possess a healthy living quality of life and love the idea of working in an eco-friendly environment, and others just want to learn more about it. But most importantly, our teachers have such a passion for working with young children and

are already coming up with ways to reinforce positive learning. Many of the teachers are big on literacy and language development as well as arts and crafts. Teachers cannot wait to meet families and establish a positive relationship with them. Our goal is to provide quality care for families by building the foundation of our Childcare Center on excellence, by hiring staff that meet our requirements.

Eco Friendly Merchandise coming soon!

Jennifer Murphy of Chapter One Organics

Chapter One Organics is a Chicago-based organic clothing manufacturer. We support socially and environmentally responsible manufacturing. Our organic baby clothes and accessories are made in the US by an organization that is helping women facing significant barriers to employment. Our organic baby clothing is modern, fun and

luxuriously soft. We produce clothing (currently up to 24 months), bibs, blankets, and sheets. Our company also recently created custom organic cotton play mats for tummy time and crib sheets for the nursery at the Little Green Tree House.

The founder of Chapter One Organics Jennifer

Murphy also published a children's book, The Green Eaters- A Dream Comes True. This is a fun and friendly way to introduce the importance of organic living to children! Several copies were donated to the Little Green Tree House's reading areas.

To find out more visit www.chapteroneorganics.com and www.thegreeneaters.com

*'Be who you are
and say what you
feel
because those
who mind don't
matter
and those who
matter don't
mind.'* Dr Suess

Quick Reference:

Center Will Be Closed On the Following Holidays

In 2009

Friday, July 3 (Fourth of July)

Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving)

Friday, November 27 (Day after)

Thursday, December 24 Center will be open 7am – 1pm

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Hours Of Operation

Monday – Friday; 7 am – 6 pm

Drop Off/Pick Up

Drop off at 7 am

Pick up no later than 6:00 pm

Telephone Number 312-492-9876



For Growing and Learning

Handwriting Without Tears® - getting ready for Kindergarten

Erin Lyon, Director of Education

The Little Green Tree House is proud to add the Handwriting Without Tears® program to the curriculum in the Pre-K classrooms. A widely recognized program used by thousands of administrators, teachers, therapists, and parents across the country, HWT helps students with the skills needed for the increasing academic challenges that they will face in Kindergarten.

Through music, movement, building, coloring, and multisensory activities, children have fun as they develop

the following skills:

- Language proficiency
- Color and shape awareness
- Fine and gross motor control
- Letter and number recognition
- Counting abilities
- Social skills

Lessons and Activities Introduced in Developmental Sequence

The Handwriting Without Tears® curriculum teaches the easiest skills first and then builds on prior les-

sons. Letters are taught in a sequence that makes sense developmentally: in groups of similar formation. After children master the easier letters, they are ready to move on to more difficult letters in both print and cursive.

Multisensory Lessons

Handwriting Without Tears® helps children develop their writing skills through multisensory play. Activities with the Wood Pieces Set, Capital Letter Cards, Mat, Roll-A-Dough Letters™, CDs, Slate Chalkboard, and Blackboard use all of the senses

to teach directionality, vocabulary and imitation, positioning, and sequencing skills. Children move, touch, feel, and manipulate real objects as they learn the habits and skills essential for writing.

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We are on the Web:

www.littlegreentreehouse.com

Our commitment to you: respond to your questions and inquiries in a timely fashion. We want to get to know you and the only way to do this is through open lines of communication.

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