

**PROMOTION:** From September 1 – 30, 2009 Refer a child that enrolls full time at the school, and receive a \$150 gift card! Be sure to speak to Elizabeth for details!

Limited time offer Sept 1– 30, 2009



**NPN School Fair  
Parent Volunteers  
needed  
October 10, 2009**

## Gourmet Gorilla Can Start Your Day

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations

You are trying to find your shoes, check your Blackberry for the latest important emails from you colleagues, walk the dog, pack up your little one and “oh ...I need to feed her breakfast” comes across your mind. ... Breakfast can now be available for those children who arrive from 7:00am—8:00am. Snack time is 10:00am and we do not want to disrupt

circle time or other curricular activities after 8:00am.

If you order the **Wednesday before the following week** Gourmet Gorilla will deliver a nutritional breakfast for **a cost of \$5 per day**. Orders will be charged to your preferred method of payment weekly. (Credit card charges will incur a \$.50 processing fee for each breakfast ordered.)

**Order forms are available at the Front Desk. Please be sure to mark the week and check the days you wish to have breakfast served for**

### Sample Rotating Breakfast Menu

Cereal, Organic Whole Milk, Fresh Fruit

English Muffin and Jam, Organic Whole Milk

Fruit Salad, Granola, Organic Whole Milk

Bagel w/ Cream Cheese, No Sugar Added Juice, Organic Whole Milk

**September, 2009**

Volume 1, Issue 5

## Special points of interest:

- BRAKFAST IS NOW BENG SERVED
- TEACHER LESSON PLAN AT A GLANCE ON PAGE 3

## Neighborhood Parents Network School Fair

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations

Little Green Tree House will be participating in the Neighborhood Parents Network school fair on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Horner Park Fieldhouse, 2741 W. Montrose Ave. Chicago (at the corner of California and Montrose). Set-up 9-10 a.m. Fair 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

to spread the word about Little Green Tree House. If you are available for any time between 9:00am – 1:00pm we would love to have you speak to perspective parents about your experience with Little Green Tree House and its Staff!

interested in assisting us any time between 9:00am and 1:30pm.



We would like to have parent volunteers come and join us

Please let Staci or Laura at the front desk know if you are

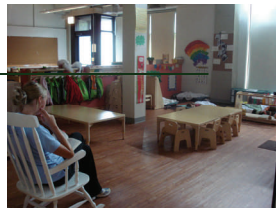
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## Sleep Time Transitions

Sarah Stiltner, Interim Assistant Director of Education



Sleep time can be a tricky task for children of all ages. Here, at Little Green Tree House, we want your child to have the most enjoyable learning and growing experience possible, including nap time. Our main goal during nap time at Little Green Tree House is that your child becomes an independent sleeper. Successful nap time at school can start at home.

Here are 5 easy steps you can try at home:

1. Elongating your sleep time ritual may give your child the impression that you are going to stay in the room until the child falls asleep or even through the night. Consequently, when you finally do leave, it makes the situation all the more dramatic for the child. Therefore, keeping your sleep time ritual short and simple helps the transition from dependent sleeper to independent

sleeper.

2. Always keep your routine in the same order, so your child can make the connection between the routine/ritual and bed time. For example, first bathe your child, and then read them a bed time story. Finally, it's lights out and time for bed!
3. Children respond well to consistency. Therefore, you should keep your child on a regular bed time schedule. Putting your child to sleep at the same time every night helps to regulate their sleep pattern.
4. It is helpful to gradually wean your child to independence. When it is time for bed, start off by sitting right next to your child on the bed (standing by the crib for infants). With time, work your way further away

from the child, so eventually you are standing at the door saying goodnight to your child. Eventually your child will be able to say, "I can go to bed by myself."

5. Teaching your child to sooth him or herself to sleep is a huge accomplishment and will greatly improve your child's bed and nap time success. Playing classical or sleep time music is a good way to promote self soothing.

We, at the Little Green Tree House, want to be a resource for our parents and the partnership between parent and teacher is so important in the development of your child. If you are still having trouble with sleep time at your house, we encourage you to speak with your child's Little Green Tree House teacher.

## Developmental Mile Stones for a Two-Year-Old

Erin Lyon, Director of Education

While your child is in our care at the Little Green Tree House we are always working to make sure that they are learning at a level that is appropriate and challenging in order for each child to develop and grow. Throughout their time here we chart their progress using developmental checklists for every age group. Our developmental checklists track your child's progress in all areas of learning and as they get older more specifically focus on skills like number and letter recognition. Each area is reviewed and dated when your child can complete the activity. At least twice a year parents can also conference with their child's teacher about these milestones and other happenings in the classroom.

An example of three of the areas we look at for a two year old includes:

### Body Coordination

1. Jumps with two feet
2. Claps with music
3. Walks on tip toe
4. Walks upstairs alone (both feet on each step)
5. Walks downstairs alone (both feet on each step)
6. Hops on one foot

### Fine Motor

1. Finger strength and dexterity
2. Fills and dumps container with sand
3. Turns single pages

### Eye and Hand Coordination

1. Applies glue and pastes collage pieces
2. Paints with a large brush
3. Tears paper
4. Strings five large beads
5. Colors with a large crayon
6. Rolls,pounds, and squeezes clay
7. Draws a horizontal line
8. Builds a six block tower



If you have any questions or concerns about developmental milestones, please feel free to discuss with your child's teacher at Little Green Tree House.



# For Growing and Learning

## Teacher Lesson Plan at a Glance

Introduction: Erin Lyon, Director of Education

Lesson Plan: Christy Schnitzius, Lead Teacher Advanced Toddler Room

In our Advanced Toddler room Ms. Christy created a unique lesson plan that she titled: Holey-Moley! Putting a creative spin on what could have been less than interesting subject allowed the children to explore and have fun in a number of hands on ways while they learned all about holes.

Ms. Christy's Lesson plan follows:

**Goals and objectives:** Goal for this unit is to have children see all of the different objects and items that have holes, to become more aware of holes in our environment, and to understand the purpose for certain holes.

**Art:**

Button painting (Have children dip buttons into paint and then press on paper to make patterns)

Create a tunnel (Have children color, glue on items, and just decorate a cardboard box that they can use to play with)

Plant flowers (Have children pour dirt into planters. Next have them drop in seeds and pour in a little more dirt. Lastly have them water plant).

Make a caterpillar (Have children glue together pom-pom balls onto paper, when done finish with an eye. Next have them glue on a leaf cut-out with a hole in it to show where the caterpillar ate through. If they want, have them color details.)

Make a Snack with holes

**Extensions for learning:**

Watch our plants grow that we planted in the holes we dug. Continue to find holes on walks to/from the park or playground. When we eat, see if there are holes in any of the food items.

Ms.Christy's credentials: Graduated from Northern Illinois University with a major in Bachelor of Arts and a minor in Psychology. Her interest in early childhood education led her to pursue more classes specializing in child psychology, and Creative Play!

**Physical:** Fine motor development through art activities by using markers, glue bottles, using knife to spread, using dirt to plant, planting seeds, and painting with buttons. Large motor development through planting, going through tunnels, and traveling through the obstacle course.

**Cognitive:** Sensory skill of vision is enhanced by having to seek out holes in objects and environment. Memory is developed through recalling items that have holes. Problem solving is further developed through gluing and designing art projects.

**Social-Emotional:** Turn-taking is developed by waiting to go through tunnels and obstacle course.

**Language:** Language is developed by verbalizing ideas of subject matter.

**Monday:** What is a hole?

Chart items that have holes.

Make holes with body.

Have children go around room to find toys that have holes in them

Book: Marta and the Bicycle

**Tuesday:** What we can do with holes?

Have the children tell me what fun things they think we can do with holes.

Go over obstacle course with children (Place out boxes, buckets, hula hoops, tunnel, etc for them to use throughout the day)

Teach about slides that you can go through, tires, and swings that we put our feet through, etc that have holes in them which we can use to have fun with.

Book: Curious George and the Dump Truck

**Wednesday:** Holes in the ground

Teach about the different ways that holes become part of the ground.

Talk about construction, planting, gardening, digging at the beach, etc

Book: The Tiny Seed

**Thursday:** Animals and holes

Teach the children that certain animals live in holes (squirrels, groundhogs, snakes, bears (caves), worms, ants, bees, bunnies, etc)

Book: The Very Hungry Caterpillar

**Friday:** Food that has holes

Show children food that has holes in it (use play food if possible) Chart different foods with holes that children express throughout circle time.

Book: Bugs for Lunch

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## Eco-Friendly Choices

Elizabeth Geldhof, Director of Business Operations



We all have a choice. The choice can be of extreme to balance. Here at the Little Green Tree House we have to consider many products every day and come up with the best solution for our school environment. For your personal use it may just take a few minutes of your time to look down the grocery aisle or large package store to make a choice to be environmentally conscious. It is so easy to pick up a brand you are comfortable and familiar with but there are so many new options out there that consider our environment.

For instance, this weekend while I was shopping for my personal home use I came across Scotch-Brite®

Greener Clean Natural Fiber Non-Scratch Scrub Sponge. My significant other is not quite on the “green train” yet and likes sponges. I am not a huge fan as I don’t personally think they are the most sanitary item; thus, I continually throw the used ones away and replenish with a new one – I do this to keep my relationship healthy. Now, I have a choice to at least purchase an eco-friendly sponge. It just took me a few minutes to peruse the aisle to see what else might be available to the traditional sponge. Right next to the standard scrubber sponge was the Scotch-Brite® Greener Clean Natural Fiber Non-Scratch Scrub Sponge. I read the label...

“Non-scratch scrubbing fibers are made from 50% natural agave plant, Sponge made from 100% natural fibers, of which 23% is recycled paper. They are also biodegradable: Biodegradable products, when disposed of properly, will completely break down and return to nature within a reasonably short period of time in a manner that doesn’t harm the environment. Landfills are generally not conducive to biodegradability; however, composting is a common method of safely biodegrading products. \* Based on ASTM D6400-04, the Scotch-Brite Greener Clean Biodegradable Absorbent Sponge, the Biodegradable Expanding Soft Sponge, the Bio-

degradable Absorbent Cloth, and the Biodegradable Bamboo Wipe are all inherently biodegradable in a composting environment.

For me, it was as simple as looking in the same area of the aisle and making a choice to buy something that is better for the environment and not just grabbing what I had for years.

Next time you shop, take a moment and see if there is something you could substitute with a slightly better product for the environment. Every little decision helps!

## Getting Ready To Go Back To School...Little One's Too

It is time to enroll for school! Many families are thinking about how to get on a new schedule for the fall. Older children are starting kindergarten or elementary school and don’t forget all of the extracurricular activities, too. What do you do with your little ones now that summer help is on their way to college or back to high school?

The Little Green Tree House is ready infants through four year olds. Our educationally based program will get your babies ready for their next steps in life. Each classroom, starting with the infants, has a curriculum plan each day. We at the Little Green Tree House are not just care-givers but teachers, too!

**Please call 312-492-9876 today to set up a tour of this amazing center at work.**



## Quick Reference:

### Center Will Be Closed On the Following Holidays In 2009

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**