

Playtime Press



April 2019

SUMMER OPENINGS

As many of you know, Playtime Learning Academy has been full in all classes most of the year. Occasionally a space will open in one class or another and we go to the waiting list to let people know. However, we anticipate having additional openings in many classes in June as we transition into the summer schedules. So, if you have a friend who might be wanting to get into classes here at Playtime, now is the time to come in and put a hold on those upcoming spaces.

VROOM Program

From Hillsborough County Schools

We would like to share with you some great information on VROOM. If you have not heard about it, it is a free APP that the Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning has funded. Parents just sign up for a free account, enter the age of their child, and then they will receive a message a day with an age-appropriate tip/activity!

For more details go to: www.vroom.org/



SPRING PICTURES

Our wonderful photographer, Jen Bailey, will be back again in April for spring pictures. Mark your calendars. Each child will have their picture taken at Playtime on one of two days: either April 2nd or 3rd. Siblings will be photographed together. VPK graduates will have cap and gown pictures taken. More specific information will be coming from your classroom teachers.



Important Semester Dates

April 2nd-3rd Spring Picture Day (all classes)

April 12th— Bring your bike (trike) to school for the 10th annual Charity Trike-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital

May 30th— VPK Graduation 6pm at Sickles High School

May 31st—Last day of school year

May 6-10—Teacher Appreciation Week

June 3rd—First day of summer programs



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

JULIE (APRIL 2ND)

AND

LAUREN (APRIL 14TH)



ST. JUDE'S CHARITY TRIKE-A-THON

APRIL 12TH (Mark your calendars.)

Each spring, our classrooms focus a week of study on Bicycle Safety using materials provided to us by St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Bikewell Bear and Pedals the Rabbit, help young children learn the basics of safe riding. The week culminates with a Trike-A-Thon in the Playtime parking lot. Children will bring their bike, trike, scooter, or ride-on toy from home to practice safe driving on our outdoor track. Parents are invited to attend to watch during their child's classroom's assigned time.

We ask parents to make donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital during the week of our Trike-A-Thon. St. Jude's donates prizes for individual contributions and Playtime donates an ice cream party to the classroom with most donations.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Managing the day to day interactions with classmates in a preschool classroom can be a daunting task for little ones. There are several problems each child encounters throughout the day that can lead to anger, frustration, sadness, and other strong emotions. For children to grow into independent people, they must learn how to problem solve. This is a large component of the social-emotional curriculum at Playtime. Children learn the main steps to solving a problem which are 1) identifying the problem, 2) thinking of solutions, 3) brainstorming possible outcomes of trying a specific solution, and 4) trying it out.

There are many solutions to problems. The goal is for children to begin understanding that they can solve many of them on their own. A problem children encounter almost daily is wanting an item that someone else is using. Two of the Playtime favorite solutions for this dilemma are trading and taking turns. Trading is a solution children can choose as a way to get an object from someone else in a positive way. Unlike sharing that leaves one child empty handed, trading allows both children to be happy with the outcome right away. Taking turns can be hard, even for adults! Taking turns is a skill that must be taught and given many opportunities to practice. Children use timers at Playtime to help them understand how long they must wait until it is their turn and how to delay gratification by finding something to do while waiting. A child who knows how to take turns has learned valuable skills about how to make friends, empathy, waiting, negotiating, and patience.

VPK PARENTS—\$20 TO RESERVE YOUR DVD'S

VPK Slideshow and Graduation Video

For each VPK graduate, we need one picture of the VPK graduate as a baby send to: VPKpictures@yahoo.com

Each year the staff and children work hard to put together a fantastic VPK Graduation ceremony, for parents and family members, to celebrate the move up to Kindergarten. As part of the program, we create a slideshow of memorable moments to share. Hopefully, by now you have emailed your child's baby picture to:

VPKpictures@yahoo.com for use in that slideshow.

This year we are also having a videographer record the graduation ceremony at Sickles High School on May 23rd. If you would like to purchase a video copy of the graduation ceremony and memorable moments slideshow, the cost is \$20. The two DVD set will be available to pickup on the last day of school—Friday May 31st.

The graduation DVD and slideshow will **only be available by advance order purchase.** Orders will be taken now through May 17th in the office.



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