



KINDER READINESS, CONT.



STUDENT EXPERIMENTING WITH ICE, DINOSAURS, AND SALT

Notes on Kinder Readiness

Earlier this year, the Loomis Union School District hosted a meeting between Kindergarten teachers and local preschool teachers to discuss the skills and experiences that best support children's readiness for Kindergarten and beyond. Here is a brief summary of LUSD Kinder Teacher goals for incoming students, as outlined in our meeting:

*The disposition that school is fun: Children's early school experiences should set the stage that school is fun, so students enter the Kinder classroom with confidence and a positive attitude.

*Adults support children with "Growth Mindset Language": This involves using language with children that validates effort and persistence, rather than outcome or "natural ability". Such communication fosters the disposition that, even if something is challenging, the child has the capability and skills to practice and improve upon that task.

*Children demonstrate social-emotional & self-management skill: This includes problem-solving, initiative, independence, being in charge of their own belongings and materials, following teacher directions, navigating transitions & participating in circle time.

*Children have ample exposure to books (read alouds), nursery rhymes & music • Read often to kids (including informational texts) • Nursery rhymes & rhyming texts encourage playful experiences with language • Any experiences with phonics and the alphabet should be fun, playful and connected to movement.

*Children have experiences in the world: Understanding of the world comes first from real life experiences. As children are learning to read, their comprehension is greatly improved when the subjects they are reading about relate to real experiences. (Examples: nature, seasons, water, food, animals, community helpers, flying a kite).

I was heartened to find that the key points addressed by Kinder teachers validate the experiences children have in a play-based preschool, as well as at home. Rather than promoting an "earlier is better" academic approach to preschool, these Kinder teachers advocated that meaningful, play-based, hands-on experiences—at home, in classrooms, with peers, and in nature—offer students skills and learning dispositions that support their future academic endeavors.

- Teacher Robannie



MEET TEACHER KELLIE!

Hello there, my name is Kellie Garing and I am tremendously excited about joining LCP as the Tot-Class teacher for the 2017/2018 school year. My husband Chris and I moved to Rocklin ten years ago from Modesto, and shortly thereafter we started our family. I am the proud mother of two beautiful children, Jack (8) and Kate (4). After watching my son's progression from daycare, to preschool, then pre-k, to elementary, I knew I wanted to be involved. Once it was my daughter's turn, I was eager to participate. I had considered plenty of options locally, but the moment we discovered LCP, I knew we had found the right place for our family.

Previously, I have attended Modesto Junior College for Early Child Development and Brandman University for Liberal Studies. After joining LCP this last September, I was inspired to return to school after an eight-year hiatus, to obtain my Preschool Associate Teacher Certificate. I have known for years that I wanted to be a teacher, but after our experience at LCP, I knew this was the perfect place for me to be. The time I have spent in my daughter's class has been incredibly fun, rewarding and educational in many ways. I feel so lucky and privileged to get to stay on here at LCP for next year.

The thing that immediately impressed me at LCP was the community atmosphere and play-based learning approach. I knew that this kind of active partnership between parents, teachers and children would be an environment that my child and I would both feel comfortable in. Once I saw firsthand the infectious passion and enthusiasm of the teachers and parents, I knew this was exactly where I wanted to teach. I have loved getting to know the children and their families in my daughter's class and I can't wait for next year.



Teacher Kellie and her family

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

April 20th : Open House and Earth Day Celebration at LCP (sign up at school!)
May 6th, 6:00pm: Winery Dinner
May 17th, 6:00pm: Ice Cream Social
May 24th, during class time: Tot Class Graduation Celebration
May 25th, 9:30am: All School Graduation Celebration and Potluck

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

April 15th, 11am-3pm: Easter Egg/Scavenger Hunt at The Flower Farm in Loomis
April 22nd, all day: Kid-Friendly Earth Day activities at the Flower Farm in Loomis
Every Friday, 10:30am: Children's Story Time at Loomis Library

Best regards and a happy Spring Break to all our LCP friends and families!!!

- Your LCP Board of Directors

