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Ever since its opening in April 2013, TLE® Fishhawk’s commitment to The Learning Experience®’s curriculum programs and standards is evident the minute you walk through the door. On-site owners, Greg and Shannon Polizzi, and dedicated Center Director, Ruby Fosteris, are strongly devoted to making their center a warm and memorable place where children, parents, and staff remain happy and engaged each and every day. Additionally, their ongoing community involvement and implementation of the Philanthropy program is unparalleled, and helps to unite and inspire the families to be outstanding citizens in their community. Congratulations to the wonderful team at TLE® Fishhawk for being our Center of the Season!

Maegan Serrette from TLE® Lake Worth has been chosen for Teacher of the Season because of her inspirational and motivational teaching style that inspires children’s curiosity and love of learning at an early age. Maegan incorporates all aspects of the wonderful TLE® curriculum and resources into her daily routines which makes it really fun for the children and keeps them coming back each day! Maegan is a huge asset to the Lake Worth center, and has recently been assisting other local centers in the area to help prepare and train new teachers. Congratulations to our Teacher of the Season, Ms. Maegan!

The Preschool 2 classroom of TLE® Waldorf consistently goes above and beyond expectations. The students in this classroom act as role models for their younger peers and played a huge part in making their Holiday Extravaganza an event for the history books! Teachers Ms. Jeannie Baker and Ms. Carlene Washington inspire students to follow their passions and interests while encouraging participation during daily lessons and projects. This classroom stands as a shining example for others to follow and is an epicenter of creativity and learning. Congratulations to the Preschool 2 classroom of TLE® Waldorf!

If you wish to nominate a center, teacher, or classroom to be recognized in a future edition of The Bubbles Bugle, please send an email to bubblesbugle@tlecorp.com and indicate which award you would like to be considered for and why.
What's Happening at TLE®

Students at TLE® Lake Nona, FL learned about fall colors through the L.E.A.P. Interactive Board!

Students at TLE® Basking Ridge, NJ learned new yoga poses through Yippee 4 Yoga®!

TLE® Littleton, MA preschoolers collected supplies for the Lowell Humane Society and received a special visit from some of the friends they would be helping!

Preschoolers at TLE® Heathrow, FL learned new shapes through a hands-on sensory activity.

Students at TLE® Freehold, NJ enjoyed finger painting with fall colors.

Students in TLE® Lake Worth, FL created their own versions of the Mona Lisa as they traveled “All Around The World.”

Students at TLE® Billerica, MA celebrated Election Day by voting for their favorite TLE® character. And the winner was…Bubbles!
What’s Happening at Students at TLE®

Students at TLE® Warminster, PA loved learning about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week!

Students at TLE® Manalapan, NJ took center stage by performing songs during their Winter Chorale Concert!

Students at TLE® Mooresville, NC learned about Canada and decorated the Canadian flag!

Students at TLE® Newport News, VA kicked-off their Yippee 4 Yoga® program!

The Twaddlers of TLE® Manahawkin, NJ created boomerangs while learning all about Australia!

Students at TLE® Union, NJ celebrated winter through a fun mitten craft project!

Students and families of TLE® Woodbridge, VA enjoyed delicious treats during their Thanksgiving week!

Students from TLE® Lake Worth, FL enjoyed racing their homemade boats!

Students at TLE® Warmister, PA celebrated winter through a fun mitten craft project!

TLE® North Brunswick, NJ learned about acorns through an engaging craft project.

TLE® Lake Worth, FL held a cardboard vehicle contest as part of November’s ‘Transportation’ themed curriculum!

TLE® McKinney, TX held a cardboard vehicle contest as part of November’s ‘Transportation’ themed curriculum!

Students at TLE® New Brunswick, NJ learned about acorns through an engaging craft project.

TLE® Woodbridge, VA enjoyed delicious treats during their Thanksgiving week!

The Twaddlers of TLE® Monrovia, NY created boomerangs while learning all about Australia!

Students at TLE® Manalapan, NJ took center stage by performing songs during their Winter Chorale Concert!

Students at TLE® Mooresville, NC learned about Canada and decorated the Canadian flag!
Preschool Apps Available at BubblesU.com

Experience a new level of *edutainment* through innovative and engaging apps and online content, never before seen in the preschool industry. **BubblesU.com** is an extension of TLE®’s commitment to providing your children with all the tools for life-long happiness and success. We have always been a trusted partner and leader in early learning education and have continued to find innovative ways to help your little one grow. For a limited time, everyone connected to TLE® will receive exclusive FREE interactive, educational, and engaging content that can be used on any Android or Apple handheld device through BubblesU.

A child’s first six years are the most crucial for a life of successful learning. Both you and TLE® would do anything to help them achieve that success. This content brings Bubbles and his friends to life while providing educational offerings to your child to continue their education beyond the four walls of our TLE® center.
How to sign-up:

1. Go to BubblesU.com and sign-up on your smartphone or tablet.
2. You will immediately receive links and a personal code to download and unlock FREE educational and entertaining apps from the Google Play or Apple Store.
3. Your feedback is always appreciated. See below an example of how to provide feedback on the apps.

Select one of the BubblesU apps.  
Click on the “Reviews” tab.  
Scroll down on the “Reviews” tab until you see “Write a Review.”  
Click on “Write a Review.”  
Share your feedback with us! Click “Send” to complete.
TLE® Blackwood, NJ donated several boxes of toys to children battling cancer at a Philadelphia children's hospital.

TLE® Holly Springs, NC and TLE® Apex, NC held their annual bike drive and collected 100 new bikes for local families. Several children had a brighter holiday thanks to the toys and winter clothing items collected by TLE® Exton, PA.

TLE® Glen Allen, VA provided holiday warmth and cheer to families in need through winter clothing donations.

Students from TLE® Monmouth Junction, NJ learned what it means to ‘donate’ by collecting winter clothing for the needy.

TLE® Tinton Falls, NJ were recognized in their local community for donating animal supplies to their local SPCA chapter.

TLE® Newport News, VA collected over 2,000 canned food items for a local food pantry.

TLE® Jacksonville-Southside, FL went on a field trip to donate food for the Thanksgiving holiday.

TLE® Waldwick, NJ made the holiday brighter for local children by donating toys to the Salvation Army.

Students at TLE® Tinton Falls, NJ went on a field trip to donate food for the Thanksgiving holiday.

TLE® Newport News, VA collected over 2,000 canned food items for a local food pantry.

Students from TLE® Monmouth Junction, NJ learned what it means to ‘donate’ by collecting winter clothing for the needy.

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Welcome to Grace and Charity’s “pup”date on the latest Philanthropy happenings at The Learning Experience®!

Here are the upcoming Philanthropy themes:

**February: BeCauSe Our Hearts Beat**

Students will create heart themed art with the help of their classmates and teachers. The artwork will then be auctioned off for charity. Join us in supporting TLE®’s biggest Philanthropy event of the year!

**March: Book Drive**

The importance of reading at an early age is the core foundation of TLE®’s Fun with Phonics® program. Join us in the month of March as we support early reading through book drives and book fairs taking place at the centers!

**April: Save the Environment**

April is “Going Green” month at TLE®! Students will be learning the value of giving back to their environment through recycling projects and planting new trees!
Recognizing Our Team, Sharing Our Story

As a parent, I know it is a difficult decision to choose a child care center for your child. More than likely, you spent hours and days researching centers both in person and online until you found the one that made you feel as comfortable as you could be when you leave your child in someone else’s care. As Executive Vice President of the company, I can assure you that we have state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, and an extensive and highly successful curriculum. But all of these pale in comparison to the experience and education your child truly has in our centers thanks to the passion and dedication of our management members and teachers.

I take great pride when I am able to read testimonials from parents who have shared their experience in the center by posting on www.ShareYourTLEStory.com. With each story, I read about “learning experiences,” milestones accomplished, and stellar staff members. In today’s society, a society where we are spending more time on mobile devices, browsing online reviews and ratings, the time you have spent acknowledging our team members is long lasting. Through this site, the outstanding TLE® member and/or center is not only recognized by their supervisor and peers, but on the World Wide Web for all to see. Imagine the feeling of knowing your work has been recognized and will be seen globally!

We are entering our 2nd year at the Boynton Beach, FL center. Our daughter did not handle transitioning to drop offs well and had a lot of separation anxiety – but her teacher (Ms. Kassy - who is the best!) and the staff never gave up on her. She is now in the VPK program and is loving the new school year so far. I love receiving the booklets each month that help me track her progress. I can tell my child is learning but equally important to me is that she is so safe, well cared for and having FUN! I highly encourage anyone to visit a center to see if TLE® is the right fit for them. I am only sorry I didn’t make this daycare/school my first choice from the beginning. TLE® is not close to my house or convenient for my commute, but it is certainly worth it to our family!

As we begin another year, I would like to personally thank our loyal and dedicated team members in the centers and field who work every day to go above and beyond providing the children in their care with more than a state-of-the-art facility, cutting-edge technology, and an extensive and highly successful curriculum. They are the ones who make “learning experiences” happen each and every day. I would also like to thank the parents who have taken time to publically recognize their stellar efforts. This form of recognition is invaluable to our team. If you have someone whom you feel deserves this type of accolade and recognition, please take a few minutes to visit www.ShareYourTLEStory.com so they too can be acknowledged globally.

Looking forward to hearing many more stories of true “learning experiences” in our centers near and far.

ShareYourTLEStory.com
Creativity abounds in our centers, which is why we have seen such great success when we join both art and philanthropy. Last year in preparation for our 2014 Convention, we solicited the help of our centers and their little learners to create masterpieces that we could place in auction. Five centers had pieces of art selected that were professionally matted and framed and then placed on auction for all 3,600 passengers aboard the Liberty of the Seas. All monies raised were donated to the Make-A-Wish® Foundation. In total, we were able to donate over $8,000 to help grant wishes of children with life threatening illnesses.

The feedback from the centers was phenomenal. Centers told of experiences where staff, families, and children were all engaged to rally around this cause. While their center may not have been selected for auction, the memories made and lessons learned were ones they would never forget. Due to this enthusiasm and result of this project, we decided to make Art From The Heart an annual event at our Convention. In 2014, we raised awareness locally, as our centers incorporated their communities, and nationally, as people from all over the country sailed on the boat and attended the auction. This year our goal is to create awareness globally! This year we have challenged the centers to create a masterpiece that illustrates an aspect of our Philanthropy program. Each center that chooses to participate will be entered into a contest. All entries will be reviewed and voted on in our world headquarters, where we will choose eight winning centers. At the 2015 Convention in April, we will display and announce the winners for all to see. The eight selected masterpieces will then be printed on postcards and sold in all centers as we create awareness globally and continue to raise money for the Make-A-Wish® Foundation. Blue Ocean Press will be graciously printing the postcards free of charge allowing us the opportunity to exceed our funds raised last year and continue to make wishes come true. We wish all centers the best of luck and look forward to sharing the masterpieces with everyone near and far.
Here at The Learning Experience®, we are proud of our commitment to making young children lifelong readers, largely in part to our Fun with Phonics® program.

We are proud to say that this past school year we had the highest reading success rate thus far. We compiled data on over 2,600 children who participated in the program, and are happy to say that more than 95% of our preschoolers entered kindergarten reading.

What are contributing factors to the high success rate this past school year? Some factors are attributed to parents' continued involvement in their child's learning and our teachers' dedication to implementing the Fun with Phonics® program. Added training and implementation support and guidance from our Curriculum and Training Departments also had a large role in our success this past year. Increased audits from our Curriculum Team, which include required submissions of Phonics information from all centers, has allowed us to provide additional feedback throughout the school year for continued success.

More than 95% of our preschool graduates are reading by the time they enter kindergarten.

Monica Nolasco
Asst. VP of Corporate Operations

The Learning Experience
Fun with Phonics® Results 2013-2014 School Year
*Based on students who attended the full year
**Data was collected from 115 of the currently 139 operating and participating centers

Students Reading
Alphabetic Principle Letter Recognition
Phonics Sound Recognition

Book level
Gender
Early Literacy Statistics:

- “Children read to three times a week or more by a member of their family were about twice as likely to score in the top 25% for reading, in comparison to children who were read to less than three times per week.” (National Center for Education Statistics)

- According to Allina Health, reading or talking to your child for at least one hour per day will lead to your child’s vocabulary becoming 8,000 to 10,000 words. By the time a child enters kindergarten they will need a minimum of 10,000 words to continue on a path to successful reading.

- “Findings show higher than average scores among students who reported more types of reading materials at home.” (The Nation’s Report Card, 2001)

As parents and guardians, you are your child’s first teacher. There are many opportunities that parents can provide for their child to foster a love of reading and promote overall educational success. At TLE®, we have included many Home/School Connection pieces for our Phonics program to assist parents in the fostering of their child’s reading at home. When the program begins the first week of October*, all parents receive a letter detailing the program while children are sent home with a Sound Safari Poster to track letter learning. As your child is introduced to letters and sounds, a card with the corresponding letter character will be sent home. We encourage you to take this opportunity to discuss the letter, sound, and any words your child might know that begin with the letter. As your child progresses into books, there may be times when the teacher will send home a small reader accompanied by a Home Reading Report. This encourages you, as the parent, to sit with your child and read the book together. As your child successfully reads a book and answers all of the comprehension questions, the book will be sent home for you to create a TLE® library.

In keeping with the TLE® philosophy of working with parents and teachers to make the children self-confident and well-rounded, we hope that you are actively involved with the fundamentals of your child’s road to reading.

Early Reading Tips for Families at Home:

- Share literacy throughout the day with your child. Remember that language can be shared in many ways! Examples include conversations, songs, reading, word games, etc.

- Practice helping your child become aware of print all around him/her by pointing out signs while in the car, labels at the grocery store, or recipes while cooking.

- Create a “Reading Place” in your home! Make this a special area designated to promote your child’s literacy skills. Include items such as a reading lamp, writing materials, and many good books or child-friendly magazines!

- Start early. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends daily reading to children beginning by six months of age. Use small, chunky board books that your baby can easily hold onto.

- Your child may ask to read the same book repeatedly. Although it can occasionally be tedious for parents, repetition is a good thing.

- Read to your child at least three times per week before bed.

- Take your child to the library so they can begin to familiarize themselves. Once your child is old enough, make sure that they sign up for their own library card.

- Look in your local community for reading event opportunities for you to attend along with your child.

- Volunteer to be a guest reader at your child’s center.
Color in Bubbles by matching the letters.
As we start the new year, it is important to reflect on the past year. What fun and exciting activities did I do with my children? What didn’t I do? How did I handle that situation? How could I improve?

As you reflect on all of your parenting moments, you might think about setting some parenting resolutions for the upcoming year.

Here are a few ideas:

**Say YES to:**
- Quality time as a family.

**Say NO to:**
- Being afraid to offer choices.

**Read more:**
- Children enjoy the excitement in reading.

**Exercise more:**
- Get children more involved at home as a family – Remember to mention Flexi Flamingo™, TLE®’s physical fitness character!

**Celebrate milestones and achievements with your children:**
- Display their accomplishments.

**Plan less:**
- Stop planning outdoor activities. Children have more memorable fun playing at home.

**Patience:**
- Be more patient with children.

**Home cooking:**
- No more take out; get children involved with cooking. Have your children decide what they want to eat.

**Listen more:**
- We know that children’s stories can last up to twenty minutes; we just need to listen more and feed their imagination.

**Unplug:**
- Smartphones and iPads will be there once the children are asleep.

A few of our TLE® children shared what their New Year’s resolutions were:

“Do something crazy this year!”
“To give one of my toys to my cousins.”
“See lots of fireworks this year!”
“Clean up my toys at home.”
“Have a great big party for my mom to welcome my new sister who is borned this year.”
“Make my teachers and parents happy.”
“Elsa.”
“Read a book.”
“Go to a special place in the summer.”
“Watch TV.”
Announcing New TLE®
Curriculum Themes!

After many discussions with our Curriculum Team and Curriculum Committee, along with a year of brainstorming and research, we are excited to have chosen the new themes for the 2015-2016 school year. On behalf of the Curriculum Committee and the Curriculum Department, I am delighted to announce the newest themes:

**Back to School**
This theme brings an excellent introduction to the school year, where the children will have the amazing opportunity to explore their classrooms, the school, communities, and on a larger scale, our states, along with so much more about the world!

**Healthy Habits**
During this month, learning will focus around the importance of eating healthy and physical hygiene as a part of a daily routine. Physical health and safety practices will also be a part of the exploration this month.

**Harvest**
The children will have fun opportunities to uncover ideas including “Down on the Farm,” “The Animals,” “Growing Food and the Tools Used,” and finally “Farm to Table,” where the children will sample farm-fresh foods.

**Forces of Nature**
Children and parents alike will be amazed with this theme. What is a force of nature? Students will investigate the Earth, wind, and water through hands-on activities and scientific explorations. They will make their own tornado tubes, glaciers, and discuss the various causes and effects of such forces.

**A Ticket to Travel**
This theme will lead children on an exploration around the world. Key visits will include National Parks, the Sahara, the Nordic, and Polynesia! Whether they are bundling up to learn more about the life, culture, and arts as they track through the Nordic, or island hopping as they learn the Greek meaning of Polynesia, the children are sure to come home with great fun facts of their worldly journeys.

**Time Periods**
This theme will enable opportunities to learn about different eras in history including Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Renaissance, and Medieval Times. We can’t wait to see the children drawing a medieval dress or working as a class to build a pyramid.

**Plants, Gardens, and Bugs, Oh My**
This theme will be sure to have your skin crawling. The children will discuss the life cycles of plants, and the benefits to the Earth of planting gardens. Meanwhile, as they look at bugs using their handy magnifying glasses, they will learn how these little creatures aid and benefit plants and gardens alike.

**We Are All Special**
The children will have the opportunity to learn how we are the same and also different. Additional topics include “Families,” “What Makes Us Special,” and “Peacemakers.” Parents will be invited to take part, as this monthly theme will have a special emphasis on doing good deeds as well as the importance of altruism.

**Once Upon a Time at TLE®**
One of the things we hear most in the Curriculum Department is how loved the original TLE® themes were. During this month of curriculum, centers will visit some of our most popular previously written themes, which include “Dinosaurs,” “Space,” “Fairy Tales,” and “Under the Seal”

**Read to Me**
This theme is back by popular demand! In discussions with the Curriculum Committee, we jointly felt the need to keep this theme due to not only it being our most popular theme, but also its significance in introducing young children to literacy. The children will enjoy learning about a variety of authors including Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle, as well as learning about many different story genres!

We hope that you are all as excited as we are about these new themes. It is our goal to provide the children with active hands-on learning opportunities and provide teachers with a foundation to utilize highly effective teaching methods; and with these themes, there is no doubt that that will be taking place. Because we believe what is good for one child is good for all… all children participate in all curricula offered at TLE®, including our Fun with Phonics®, and Foreign Language programs. We strive to regularly research and improve upon our curriculum as we pride ourselves in maintaining our revolutionary curriculum.

As the launch of these new curriculum themes grows closer, we will also reveal upcoming enhancements to the curriculum. Don’t miss upcoming publications of The Bubbles Bugle® for the bulletin! We look forward to this upcoming journey!
Draw a line to match the circle with the character.
with busy activity leading to the moment you hug your child as he enters his classroom at TLE®. Finally, you’ve checked that your little one has everything needed for the day, including the Learning Bag item for the special “Show and Tell.” Does any of this sound familiar?

This scenario includes example of routines that are embedded in our daily lives and can help give a child a sense of familiarity and security. Have you ever considered how daily routines, accompanied by reassuring rituals can be linked with the superior educational resources provided at TLE®? First, you may be wondering what routines and rituals actually are when relating to the daily life of a young child.

According to the Encyclopedia of Infant and Early Childhood Development, routines are defined as “a sequence of highly ordered steps that occur in common settings such as mealtimes or bedtimes” (1). Rituals, subsequently, piggyback with routines and can work to enhance a child’s experiences. According to the NAEYC (National Association of the Education of Young Children) publication young children rituals are “special actions that help navigate emotionally important events or transitions in life, as well as enhance aspects of our daily routines to deepen connections and relationships” (2). Rituals add the “meaning” to daily and basic routines, giving a child the reassurance of being loved. A child waving “bye” to a loved one as he or she is being dropped off at school is an example of how a daily routine can be connected with a ritual to form an emotional connection.

So now the question is, “How do I unlock the opportunity for my child to enhance their learning experiences and emotional bonds with the use of TLE® curriculum resources?” The answer lies in your hands and at your fingertips. TLE® provides numerous tools and resources that have been set in place for your child’s learning and to connect with your family.

With these available tools, lies opportunity for you and your child to create that special “ritual” in and beyond the four walls of the TLE® classroom. The sky is the limit when creating rituals with your child and the available resources. A key is to focus on your child and what would make a routine, such as a workbook coming home at the end of the month, special to him or her. Maybe, your ritual for a workbook could be to have a special “Share” time, where your child shows you his or her favorite activity they completed that month. You might even go on to create a “LOOK” board or area where your child can display a favorite piece of work. Infants and sign language is another great opportunity for developing a special “ritual” to connect home and school. Post your monthly calendar in an area where you will easily see it, and practice the sign from the calendar when interacting with your child.

Now you have an idea of the definition for young children of routines and rituals, and you have a list of superior educational resources provided at TLE®. This is where the fun begins! Try new things! Connect with your child’s teacher and learn more about the TLE® resources available for you at home! You and your child will both benefit from the opportunity to connect and create special rituals to enhance your daily routine!
For many of you not residing in warmer climates you know that the winter weather is clearly underway! Bubbles the Elephant wants all of our children to stay safe in the cold weather! Here is how you can help:

- Make sure your child has a warm, healthy, satisfying breakfast to get ready for the day. These calories will help their bodies have energy to keep them warm.

- Dress your child in layers. Thin warm layers insulate better during outside play. It is also easy to remove layers when your child becomes warm.

- Ensure your child has a warm winter coat, hat, snow gloves, snow pants and snow boots.

- Provide an extra set of clothes for your child. This should include an additional pair of socks, mittens and hat.

- The snow can reflect up to 85% of the sun’s ultraviolet rays so; don’t forget to put sunscreen on your child’s face before they start their day and provide a pair of sunglasses to protect their eyes.

- The winter air quickly zaps moisture from skin and lips. Discuss with your pediatrician the best ways to keep your child’s skin healthy during the winter months. This conversation should include appropriate length and frequency of baths and a good lotion or ointment regimen for their skin and lips.

- Discuss and promote good hand washing procedures. During the winter months children have more inside time thus increasing exposure time to viruses.

All in all winter is a fun season. It allows for many new sports and hobbies and there is excitement in the air.

Bubbles wishes everyone a fun and safe winter season!
Does your child like to write?

If the answer is “YES,” then they can become a Junior Correspondent for the Bubbles Bugle!

Have your child write in and tell us

Why they love The Learning Experience®

We’ll choose one winner that will have their own article in an upcoming edition of the Bubbles’ Bugle!

Please mail your letter to:
Bubbles’ Bugle Junior Correspondent
4855 Technology Way, Suite 700
Boca Raton, FL 33431
many of you choose to use silly voices to represent the different
characters as you read the stories? It doesn’t matter the age of the
child you are reading to, they will use tone and inflection and attempt
to tell stories, although they may not be able to use words. You need
to be intentional when reading stories, using tone and inflection;
children learn from what they see and they mimic that.

Who doesn’t enjoy escaping from the stresses of adult life and getting on the floor and building the coolest of cool Lego towers? When adults play with children using blocks, they use more vocabulary and special terms. The same is true with puzzles, and this will assist in increasing children’s mathematical ability by ages four and five due to verbal stimulation.

Remember that conversation over dinner last week? Yes, you know the one when your child used a word that you didn’t even realize they knew. This is an important literacy skill. Try using alternative words more frequently with your child. For example, when talking about the weather, use brisk instead of breezy. You’ve just assisted in expanding your child’s vocabulary.

Evidence suggests that you need to use sentences and conversations to help children learn vocabulary; you can’t just quiz them. Recently, I attended a conference and during one of the sessions, the topic focused on a college student’s research project with a focus on language literacy. The premise of the study was to increase the conversations that parents had with their children while in common public places, such as the grocery store. The research group set up shop at two local grocery stores. At one grocery store, they put up signs amongst things like the produce and other spots around the store to ask children questions. At the grocery store which had the signs, parents reported having 33% more conversation with their child as they shopped than the grocery store without signs. Keep this in mind the next time you are running errands, are at the dry cleaner, pet store, or post office and engage your child in a meaningful conversation.

Parents who are more involved and interact with their children are more likely to have children who have higher reading scores on standardized tests and subsequently have higher math scores. So talk with your child and not to your child; expand on what they are saying and do not let it drop.

Be Word Conscious

Meghan
Kelly
Director of Curriculum

Year after year, as TLE® parents are polled as to their reasons for choosing their enrollment and attendance at any one of The Learning Experience® centers across the country, the most popular answer is always the CURRICULUM! One of the biggest draws of our curriculum is our all-inclusive Fun with Phonics® program, which consistently improves its success rate with children graduating our preschool programs and entering into kindergarten programs reading. That's pretty amazing!

As a former preschool teacher, I can tell you that THE most popular question preschool parents have for us is, “Is my child reading?” Although teachers play an important role in this process, you the parent also play an important role. Did you know that if your child is attending TLE® full-time, they are only in attendance for 20% of the time they are awake? That means when they are outside of the center and with you, the parents, you are playing a crucial role in their language learning and ultimately their reading experience.

It Starts Early On
Children who are exposed to a higher amount of vocabulary at a younger age have a higher vocabulary of root words. So what does this tell us? Talk to your infant; read to your infant. The more words you expose them to, the better! Studies show that you learn what you hear the most, and that even infants are able to listen to vocabulary and notice frequency of word usage. So what does this tell us? The more frequently they hear words, the more likely they are to repeat them.

We all learn things that are of interest to us—I don’t think there are many of us that like to learn things that are of no interest to us. Well, this is true even for infants; they attach meaning to things that are of interest to them. When you are conversing with your infant, choose your words carefully because they are in fact listening, and doing so carefully.

By eighteen months, children can speak up to fifty words, understand as many as one hundred, and can be banking as many as ten new words a day according to Holly Robinson from American Baby. By age six, that number jumps to a vocabulary of over six thousand words.

Quality Interactions Can Make a Difference
How many of you read to your children? I will always have a deep love for children’s literature and the classic stories. I remember sharing some of them with my very first preschool class. Now, how many of you choose to use silly voices to represent the different

We Learn Best in Meaningful Context

When you are conversing with your infant, choose your words carefully because they are in fact listening, and doing so carefully.

Remember that conversation over dinner last week? Yes, you know the one when your child used a word that you didn’t even realize they knew. This is an important literacy skill. Try using alternative words more frequently with your child. For example, when talking about the weather, use brisk instead of breezy. You’ve just assisted in expanding your child’s vocabulary.

Evidence suggests that you need to use sentences and conversations to help children learn vocabulary; you can’t just quiz them. Recently, I attended a conference and during one of the sessions, the topic focused on a college student’s research project with a focus on language literacy. The premise of the study was to increase the conversations that parents had with their children while in common public places, such as the grocery store. The research group set up shop at two local grocery stores. At one grocery store, they put up signs amongst things like the produce and other spots around the store to ask children questions. At the grocery store which had the signs, parents reported having 33% more conversation with their child as they shopped than the grocery store without signs. Keep this in mind the next time you are running errands, are at the dry cleaner, pet store, or post office and engage your child in a meaningful conversation.

Parents who are more involved and interact with their children are more likely to have children who have higher reading scores on standardized tests and subsequently have higher math scores. So talk with your child and not to your child; expand on what they are saying and do not let it drop.
Fruit Kabobs
Looking for a tasty treat to create with your child? Whether it’s for school, friends or simply to enjoy at home; here is a simple and healthy snack to make with your little one!

What you will need:
- Plastic or wooden skewers
- Blueberries
- Strawberries
- Mandarin slices (peeled and split apart)

Instructions:
1. Work with your child on placing a strawberry on the skewer and sliding it all the way to the bottom.
2. Add more fruit to the skewer piece by piece until there is only a small amount of space left at the top.
3. Say the name of each piece of fruit as you slide it onto the skewer to help your child with their vocabulary development - You may even count the pieces of fruit and ask your child what color each piece of fruit is.
4. Get creative by making each fruit kabob different, changing the pattern of fruit for each one that you make.
5. Enjoy!

Polar Bear Dessert Cups
Turn an ordinary ice cream cup into a polar bear!

What you will need:
- Vanilla ice cream cup
- Chocolate chips
- Hershey’s kiss
- Banana slices

Instructions:
1. Insert chocolate chips upside down into the ice cream to make the polar bear’s eyes.
2. Insert a Hershey’s kiss upside into the ice cream to make the polar bear’s nose.
3. Add two banana slices to make the polar bear’s ears.
4. Enjoy!
BeCause Our Hearts Beat Craft

**Materials**
- 3 sheets of blue construction paper
- 1 sheet of purple construction paper
- Wiggle eyes
- Pencil
- Child-safety scissors

**Instructions:**
1. Use child-safety scissors to cut out the heart-shaped stencils shown above.
2. Create Bubbles’ head by placing stencil # 1 on a flat sheet of blue construction paper. Use a pencil to trace around the shape, then cut the shape out.
3. Create Bubbles’ ears by placing stencil # 2 on a flat sheet of blue construction paper. Use a pencil to trace around the shape, then cut the shape out (Repeat this step twice since Bubbles has two ears!).
4. Place stencil # 3 on a piece of purple construction paper. Use a pencil to trace around the shape, then cut the shape out. Repeat this two more times.
5. Use the glue stick to glue Bubbles’ ears to the back of Bubbles’ head (place one ear on each side).
6. Use the glue stick to glue the smaller heart cut-outs to the areas shown in the picture.
7. Use the glue stick to glue on Bubbles’ eyes.
8. Use a colored marker to write in a special message on Bubbles’ trunk and hand deliver your surprise to someone special!
**The Importance of Play for Children**

Play is universal throughout the animal kingdom - whether it's a puppy chasing its tail, or young birds swooping through the air, the importance of play to youngsters should not be underestimated.

Play is an essential part of growing up and researchers believe it’s critical to ensure children reach their full potential in life. Research in animals show brain connections developing during periods of play, and there’s no reason to suppose the same is not true of young humans. Parents don’t always understand the importance of play though, and in today’s competitive world, the temptation is to stop your children from “wasting time” and to put the time to what they believe is more constructive use.

For a child, however, there is no more constructive activity than play. When analyzing the importance of play you should take into account the following points:

**Play allows a young child to be “in charge.”** Think about this - in their everyday lives, they’re small and powerless, always being told what to do, and how to do it. Without an adult around, they’re running the show!

**Play helps children learn about the world in which they live.** They can investigate and discover, test their theories, spatial relationships, explore cause and effect, societal roles and family values. Such is the importance of play, that there’s virtually no area of life about which it can’t teach a child something.

**Play builds self-esteem.** Children will often play at something they know they can do well, at which they can be successful.

**Play builds social skills.** Children will begin playing with objects, like cuddly toys, building blocks, etc. to practice their interactive skills.

Later, playing with other children will build on this foundation as they learn to share, take turns, assert themselves and begin to empathize with others. The importance of play with parents shouldn’t be underestimated either, as research shows that children whose parents play with them ultimately develop superior social skills.

Play also provides the opportunity for children to work out their feelings. The importance of play in dealing with difficult or unpleasant emotions is immense. A child who’s worried about going to the dentist, for example, may deal with the anxiety by setting up a clinic for dolls with a toothache.

Play helps with language development. Think of the vast number of words a toddler uses during play, many of them repeatedly, enhancing their language skills.

Play allows children to grow beyond their years. They can pretend to be all sorts of things in play - a doctor, a surgeon, a civil engineer even (think of those building blocks)!

Finally, don’t forget to consider the importance of play in stimulating your child’s creativity and imagination - making a castle in the sand, or a car garage out of a shoe box, taking an order in their own (imaginary) restaurant or dressing up as a king or queen - these all allow children to stretch the limits of their world and experience the fun in make-believe.

Of course when you’re pondering the importance of play, don’t forget reading is just as important - please visit my website, Scruffy’s Bookshop, for some beautiful illustrated books and while you’re there don’t forget to sign up for your free monthly newsletter and gifts!

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**Helping Your Shy Child**

It’s impossible to tell if a toddler’s shyness is something that will remain with her through life, or if she’s just behaving like a typical child of this age. So, instead of worrying about her shyness, or looking for a solution to it, try to find ways you can help her to have good feelings about herself and others, and to feel happy about interacting socially with other adults and children. With support even naturally shy children can grow into friendly, confident adults (although that shy child will probably always remain somewhere deep inside). You can help your child reach this goal by:
万一您描述您的孩子为“害羞”时，她会把它记在心里并变得更为害羞。这可能会让她感到不安全，甚至以为自己被孤立。为什么不在适当的时候尝试让她也参与社交活动呢？比如，在一个孩子想要加入一个游戏，但又有点害羞的时候，你可以说：“为什么不和我们一起呢？”或者，如果她非常怕生，那么你也可以陪她一起去，然后一边和她手牵手，一边观察其他的孩子。您的参与和鼓励可以帮助她感受到自信，从而更愿意和别人交流。

**ENCOURAGEMENT**
Don’t push your child into social situations, but gently encourage her to participate in group activities, and help her break the ice if necessary. Initially she might find it easier to mix with slightly younger children as she won’t feel threatened and, indeed, as the “big girl” might feel more confident. Practice. Why not try some role play? Maybe her teddy or a doll is on the edge of the playground, wanting to join in a game, but is afraid to try. Ask your toddler for advice and consider some good suggestions for joining in. Your child will be able to use this material if she is in a similar situation later - children are great imitators.

**PREPARATION**
Some children are particularly sensitive to new situations, and this sensitivity will manifest itself as shyness. Get your toddler to play group, parties, or pre-school a few minutes early so she has time to be acclimatized and be involved in activity when the others arrive. If you do arrive late, then be sure to tell your toddler before you walk in just what you’re going to do and what she can expect.

Remember, your child is still very young and will probably grow out of her shyness. Meanwhile if you see her looking longingly at a group of children at play, and she seems to want to join in, but shyness is holding her back, then try giving her a few suggestions. Don’t push her forwards before she’s ready, but offer a way in, for example “Why don’t you go over and see if those other girls would like to look at your new doll?” Or if she’s very timid, then offer to go with her and hold her hand for a while.

If shyness continues once your toddler has turned three, and if you feel it is interfering with her activities, discuss the problem with your doctor. There are counselling options and early, gentle help can successfully help with extreme shyness in young children.

ELLIE DIXON

Sensory Stimulation Activities For Infants

Did you know that up to 80% of your child’s brain potential develops before age three?

Your baby’s first three years is a period of amazing brain growth. It’s in this once-in-a-lifetime event that millions of brain cells will be created.

However, research has proven that our intellectual skills not only rely on brain cells, but ultimately depend on the existence of connections between these cells. The more connections created in early development - the more power the brain will have to process information and effectively solve problems in the future.

Developmental studies indicate that Sensory-stimulation is an effective exercise for increasing the number of brain cell connections in infants and toddlers. Sensory stimulation refers to the impact the environment has on our minds and bodies as we receive information through our sensory organs.

These sensory activities can be delivered through soothing activities that involve touch, sound, sight, vestibular activity and smell (aromatherapy). Some of the most popular exercises include the following:

**Touch:** Let your child experience the touch of various cloth textures while you massage him/her after a bath.

**Sound:** Sound is a powerful channel. Many parents report that exposing their babies to smooth music during the early years has helped in their intellectual development. The “Mozart effect” has proved those children with exposure to classical music attain a higher IQ than those who lack this stimulation. Try playing a classical music stimulation CD and watch your child react!

**Sight:** Vision in babies is limited and is the last sense to fully develop. As a result, they tend to prefer high contrast colors, particularly red and black. To best stimulate your child’s vision, create flashcards by drawing and coloring various sharp pattern pictures (geometric forms). Introduce these cards during play-time and watch how your child responds to this visual stimulation.

**Vestibular Activity:** Rock your baby while listening to his/her lullaby. You may also want to try simple hand-eye coordination games and other activities that require motor skills (fine and gross).

**Smell:** Smell is one of the most powerful senses. Learn to stimulate this sense by using various aromatherapy candles. Each child has a unique sensory-profile, so learn to experiment with smell until you find the right scent.

Remember that sensory stimulation is about exposing your child to DIFFERENT stimuli. Therefore, don’t feel afraid to vary and experiment with activities.

JAMES NICHOLSON

**Sensory Stimulation Activities For Infants**

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Your baby’s first three years is a period of amazing brain growth.
Refer A Friend PROGRAM
REFER A FRIEND AND RECEIVE ONE WEEK FREE!

Ask Center Management for more details!

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Academy of Early Education
Once released, Parent Safe ‘N Secure® will be available for FREE in your App Store!

Now, you’ll be able to:

- Create your personal profile
- View classroom and center schedules
- See the details of your child’s day, including the activities they are participating in
- Have photos of your child and their class sent right to your phone
- Receive the latest exciting news directly from The Learning Experience®
- Refer friends to TLE®
- Receive coupons from TLE®
- And much, much more!