



# Early Learning Center

UNITED DISCIPLES  CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 2017

## From the Director

Christmas is here! Christmas is here! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate. I love the decorations. I love the time with family. Most of all I love that the whole season is centered around Jesus Christ. It is a privilege, this time of year, to get to teach the children about the birth of our Lord and Savior. He is the most important person in my life, and I pray that each of the children will choose to follow Him.

Jesus left His Heavenly home and humbled Himself as a small, helpless baby, so that we can be made right in our sins and able to approach to Him. I think it is appropriate after Thanksgiving, to emphasize that we can be thankful most of all for our Lord & Savior Jesus.

Over the next few weeks, we will be focused on the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. This message gets lost in the secular realm of Santa and trees. At the ELC, the children will learn about the Christmas story through songs, stories, pretending in their classroom “manger,” learning projects, and even through their art experiences. I hope you will take time at home to reinforce this important message.

Most of all, I thank you for sharing your children with us and for entrusting them to our care. Each one is a precious gift and brings us so much joy. May your family be blessed throughout this Christmas season with love and hope in the eternal love of Christ.

*“<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. “*

*Titus 3:4-7*

## Calendar Notes

Wednesday, Dec. 6	Vision and Hearing Screening
Thurs & Fri., Dec 7&8	ELC Shirt Days
Thurs & Fri., December 14&15	Birthday Parties for Jesus
Monday, Dec. 18-Tuesday, Jan. 2	No School—Christmas Holiday
Wednesday, January 3	Classes Resume

**Daily classroom lesson plans are posted in each classroom**

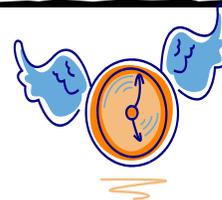
# Upcoming Events

## Birthday Parties for Jesus

As we talk this month about God's gift to us through the birth of Jesus Christ, we will celebrate with "birthday parties" for Jesus. The parties will be held Thursday, December 14, and Friday, December 15 (Miss Laura's class will have their party on Friday). If you would like to help with the party for your child's class, please check with the classroom teacher, or the sign-up list outside of the



## Lunch Bunch Drop-In for Holiday Shopping!!!



The ELC is giving you an early Christmas Gift—time!!!

We have drop-in for our Lunch Bunch for \$10. Think of everything you could get done—extra shopping, lunch with a friend or family member, house cleaning for the Christmas guests!

\*\*Requires at least 24 hours notice

\*\*Payment must be made prior to or the day of the drop-in

## 3 Ways to Give this season — Feed the hungry continues!

Thank you to everyone who gave to The Network in Richardson through our Red Wagon mission project and to Heifer International through our quarters tube project. Look for final donation numbers in the ELC Weekly Email Update! These community mission projects will continue throughout the year. Please take this opportunity to teach your child about sharing with others less fortunate.

## Inclement Weather Closings

Now that colder weather is here, please be aware that we follow the Richardson Independent School District closings. If RISD *cancels school due to ice or snow, then the ELC will be closed.* If the RISD *delays opening, the ELC will be closed.* There may be occasions when the RISD chooses to remain open and the ELC makes a decision to close school due to hazardous road conditions. If this happens, you will receive a message from an ELC staff member. You may also sign up for twitter text alerts through the handle @MY\_ELC or check the [front page of the website](#) if you are unsure.

## Illness Policy

**Keeping children home when they are not quite well really makes a difference in halting the spread of germs through our school.**

The following are state licensing and ELC regulations regarding ill children. Children must NOT be admitted to school if one or more of the following exists:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities (including outdoor activity).
2. The child has any of the following: Oral temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater, rectal temp. of 101.4 or greater, or armpit temp. of 99.4 or greater. Symptoms and signs of possible illness such as lethargy, abnormal breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, 2 or more vomiting episodes in 24 hours, rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, behavior changes, or other signs that the child may be severely ill.

For a child who has been ill, they should be free of the above symptoms for 24 hours or longer before they return to school. If a child arrives at school ill, the child will be moved to the office and a parent will be called to pick up the child.

# Specials

## Music News

Thank you for coming to celebrate the Thanksgiving season with us and cheer on your beautiful children at our Thanksgiving Feast Performance. We had so much fun and hope you did too. This week we will be rewarding our efforts with a Dance Party in music!



I look forward to singing Christmas songs over the next few weeks as we share in the true spirit of the season. We will be singing and dancing and playing jungle bells to our hearts' delight. This is my favorite time of the year and know that it is a favorite for many of the children as well.

Smiles from Ms. Tonia

## Why Teach Music?

*Music is Language.*

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French, and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music are the most complete

## Sand and Water News

What is the saying about weather in Texas, “Just wait awhile and it will change.?” That’s the truth! We are lucky to have an indoor and an outdoor location for our sensory activities.

We had a great time washing fruits and vegetables to celebrate fall and the season of harvest. Searching for acorns among the fall leaves was a favorite too. Some additional highlights from November included using scales to weigh pumpkins and gourds, playing with flubber, tending our farm animals, and sorting fall colored pom poms using tongs. Children desperately need to have a multitude of whole-body sensory experiences on a daily basis in order to develop strong bodies and minds. This can best be done outside where the senses are fully ignited and young bodies are challenged by the uneven and unpredictable, ever-changing terrain. At the ELC, we work very hard to provide a wide variety of sensory activities for our students in order to stimulate creativity and a higher-level of thinking. We will continue to include activities that will help develop large and small motor



# Specials



## **Bible News**

I am very excited to let you all know that in addition to Music and Sand & Water activities, I now have the privilege of teaching Bible lessons here at the ELC. Sharing the messages of God's love with these precious children is truly a joy for me. We are having our Bible lessons on Mondays during our scheduled music class times.

I focus our lessons on age appropriate Bible concepts that reinforce what the children are learning in the classroom, help them to navigate their God given feelings and emotions, increase their feelings of self-worth as children of God, and learn about the Fruits of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-Control). Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions about these lessons.

December is such a special time as we turn our focus to the birth of Jesus Christ and the gift HE is in our lives. Our lessons in December will be centered on the Nativity.



### WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR “EMPTY” BOXES?

A cardboard box may appear empty to an adult but, for a kid, it is actually filled with possibilities! Simply getting inside an empty box can transport children to new spheres of creative play. Armed with only their imagination, a child can transform a box into a spaceship, house, cave, train, or ship. In fact, the cardboard box is such a popular and versatile plaything that, in 2005, it was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame.

Because boxes foster so much learning, creativity, and discovery through play we include at least one with every shipment! And because our furniture comes fully assembled, many of the boxes are BIG!

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityPlay->

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### TEACHING SOCIAL SKILLS TO LITTLE ONES

Are there any adults in your life who probably didn't get enough instruction on basic social skills when they were preschoolers? While these folks can be a bit annoying at times, it's probably wise to remember that their lack of relational finesse has probably made their own lives less than peachy. When I remember this, it's easier for me to remain empathetic with them. It also reminds me why it's so important to help our young children learn the basic social graces.

Most of this teaching should take place in the classroom of real world experience. That is, at the very moment our children are interacting with others. Listed below are just a few of the things we ought to expect our children to do:

- Shake people's hands and look into their eyes.
- Smile.
- Say "hello."
- Say "thank you" when complimented.
- Say "please."
- Say "goodbye" and wish people well.

I'm constantly amazed at how many parents fail to expect these things out of their preschoolers. Instead, their children are allowed to snub others or to hide behind their parents' backs.

Now, I understand that some children are extremely shy. I also understand that this takes work and can feel a bit awkward from time to time. In our book, *Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood*, we teach the importance of having high expectations for our children. Parents who maintain high expectations raise far happier and more socially skilled kids.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible. If this is a benefit, [forward it to a friend](#).

Dr. Charles Fay, Love & Logic