

Kids of the Kingdom Preschool

An outreach ministry of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Parent Newsletter January 2010

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

I hope that you all had a restful and happy holiday season! All of the staff here at KOK enjoyed our holiday break and are ready to get back in the groove with your children. We missed them over the holidays!

We will have a special visit from Mother Goose on Tuesday, Jan. 26th. If your child comes on Wednesday, please bring them for this fun event. It will start at 10:00.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday, Feb 4th. This is an important time to hear about what progress your child has made over the school year as well as the goals that your child's teacher has set for them for the remainder of the year. We look forward to visiting with you.

Registration packets for the 2010 – 2011 school year will be handed out during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

We are thankful for all of our families at KOK and enjoy each and every one of your children. We appreciate your sharing them with us!

Randa Martin



A **BIG** thank you to Kate White and Carter Hastings for being the stars of our Christmas chapel. They both were fabulous as baby Jesus!

Jan/Feb Calendar

Dates to Remember:

Jan. 5: School Resumes

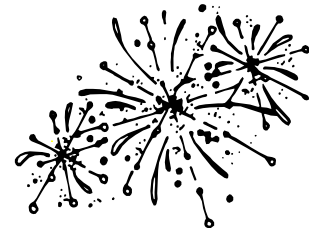
Jan. 26: Mother Goose
10:00 Fellowship Hall

Feb. 4: Parent Teacher Conferences
no school T/Th & T/W/Th

Feb. 9: In House Registration for
2010-2011

Feb. 18 & 21: Registration for LOL
members

Feb. 24: Public Registration 10:00



Happy New Year!
from your friends
at

Kids of the Kingdom

Thank you so much for your
generosity this
past holiday season!

The teachers really appreciate all
you did to make their classroom
Christmas parties special! Thank you
for your continued support of the
KOK staff and our program.



Much thanks to the Teacher Appreciation Committee for the gift bag of goodies that was given to each teacher at our staff Christmas party. Starbucks gift cards, hot chocolate and truffles are always a treat! We had a great staff Christmas party thanks to all of you. It was APPRECIATED!!!

BRRRRR! Yes that is right,
winter has arrived in
The Woodlands!

Remember to dress your child
for the playground. We will be
going outside, so a hat, mittens
and a coat are a must!
Thanks!

Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday, Feb. 4th

Conferences are an informative time for you to learn about the progress your child has made during this school year. Your child's teacher is looking forward to this time to sit and discuss with you specific goals for your child to work toward for the remainder of the school year.

We realize that it is sometimes difficult to find someone to watch your child/children while you are conferencing. A babysitter will be available to watch your children while you visit with your child's teachers.

The baby items that we collected at our Christmas Chapel were taken to the Pregnancy Assistance Center North. The following is a thank you note from them. I also want to say thank you to all of our KOK families for sharing what you have with others. It was obvious from this note how valuable it was for those they serve. You are doing a wonderful job of teaching service to your young ones.

To Kids of the Kingdom:

We have been abundantly blessed again by the diapers, clothes, baby items you collected for us at PACN!

Thank you for helping us show God's love to the women and their families who are in need.

May you have a blessed Christmas and 2010!

*Karen Gould
Pregnancy Assistance Center North*

Why Nursery Rhymes?

There are so many good reasons to use nursery rhymes as literacy tools!

First of all, so many children are already familiar with so many of them. When children breathe the air of familiarity, they become much more comfortable with their surroundings; certain words, letters or even names seem to become self evident.

Additionally, children who are familiar with a nursery rhyme will often want to continue down one of many paths within the realm of literacy: they may want to continue reading the further adventures of a given character, such as presented in our books, they may wish to write rhymes of their own; they may want to read other nursery rhymes or discover new characters or stories related but not exactly the same. This is much like our experience as adults of being introduced to new people through a close old friend, and developing an independent relationship with that new friend. Ultimately, they may become part of your social circle, and may in fact even lead to making more new friends - in fact, it usually does work this way! We actually have a lifelong relationship with literacy much as we have lifelong social relationships, and when thought of as ever enlarging concentric circles, it can be rewarding, inspirational, thought provoking, and enhance the general quality of our lives.

Further, the natural rhythm and meter of nursery rhymes actually lend themselves to being read and in particular out loud. The same is true in reverse by the way: How often have we heard children repeat a line from a song we know in spoken word and stop to consider the juxtaposition of the words, the verse, the rhyme?

Tony Stead, senior national literacy consultant for Mondo Publishing in New York, described research showing that in 1945, the average elementary school student had a vocabulary of 10,000 words. Today's child has 2,500 words. "That is disastrous," Mr. Stead said. "A lot of problems come from children not memorizing rhymes, the bread and butter of traditional early children's literature." "Listening comprehension precedes reading comprehension," Mr. Stead said. "In order for a child to understand what they are reading, they have to be able to hear the language first. A lot of the traditional rhymes, such as *Jack and Jill* and *Humpty Dumpty*, were repetitious and allowed us to memorize basic structures and patterns in the English language, then put it together. It's important that young children learn to memorize through verse. Research shows children learn more in their first eight years than they do in the rest of their lives. This is a powerful time to teach them to be readers and writers. Instead of enhancing children's imaginations, today's media have stunted it", he says. "Rhyme is important in developing phonemic (hearing) awareness in children", he said. "It's harder in elementary school to teach kids to read when they do not have oral support. Kids are unable to paint pictures in their heads unless they read. Now they all have pictures painted for them through TV and video. When kids have to create their own stories, they rely on what they saw on television last night rather than form it in their minds. Traditional cultures handed stories down through talk. They didn't have picture books back then. The power of a parent or teacher sitting down and telling a story, allowing kids to paint pictures in their heads, is a very powerful tool. Most of our problems could be solved if parents could be reading to and talking to children from birth, giving them a solid oral language basis. These days, the TV is on during dinner."

Clearly, Mr. Stead makes many valid points as depicted above, not the least of which revolves around the importance of nursery rhymes as learning tools. To that end, however, the more obvious aspects need to be considered, too (ironically, these points are so obvious that they are often taken for granted and thus overlooked!): Nursery rhymes are fun (or funny). They generally feature colorful characters, involved in a host of varied situations. They are resolved very simply, in language that is identifiable and thanks to their rhythm kids actually want to hear them repeatedly. There are many of them, they are abundant and perhaps best of all, parents are also familiar with them.

Mother Goose will be at KOK on
Tuesday, January 26th, at 10:00!
(If Tuesday is not a school day for
your child, please join us!)



2010 - 2011 Registration for Kids of the Kingdom Preschool

In-house registration paperwork will be sent home during your Parent-Teacher conference with the first day that we will accept your paper work being Feb. 9th. After much thoughtful consideration, the KOK board has decided to raise tuition for the 2010 - 2011 school year. One day classes will be \$111, two day classes will be \$222 and three day classes will be \$333. This will provide an increase in salary for our teachers as well as the ability to cover the rising costs of operating expenses.

Registration will be done on a first come first served basis for all currently enrolled students. Our toddler, two and three year old classes have limited space availability. Siblings not currently enrolled will be placed after currently enrolled students.

Please note:

1 day Toddlers = 6 openings, 2 day Toddlers = 6 openings
1 day Twos = 10 openings, 2 day Twos = 10 openings, 3 day Twos = 10 openings
2 day Threes = 12 openings, 3 day Threes = 24 openings
3 day Fours = 42 openings

New requirements from licensing regarding Gang-Free Zones

As a result of House Bill 2086 that passed during the 81st Legislature, we are required to give out information about gang-free zones to our parents.

What is a gang-free zone? *A gang-free zone is a designated area around a specific location where certain gang related activity is prohibited and is subject to increased penalty under Texas law. Certain gang related criminal activity that occurs within 1000 feet of a school or day care center is a violation of the law.*

How do parents know where the gang-free zone ends? *The gang-free zone is within 100 feet of your child care program. Maps may be produced for the purposes of prosecution and may be updated by the local municipal or county engineer. Parents may contact their local municipality to attempt to obtain a copy of the map if they choose to do so.*

Why are gang-free zones needed? *Similar to the motivation behind establishing drug-free zones, the goal of gang-free zones is to deter certain types of criminal activity in areas where children gather by enforcing tougher penalties.*

What does this mean for my day care center? *Child care providers are required to inform parents or guardians of children attending their center about the new gang-free zone designation. This means parents or guardians need to be informed that certain gang-related criminal activity or engaging in organized criminal activity within 1000 feet of your program is a violation of this law and is therefore subject to increased penalty.*

