

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com. January 2025



Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year! We are now open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you want your child to stay for the **Extended Day** there is a different tuition rate and you will need a new Admission's Agreement.

Did you know we have Drop In rates you need extra care from time to time? Fill out an "Extra Care Form" and give it to your teacher or me. It is helpful to provide a 24-hour notice to ensure space is available. There are various options for you to choose, such as an Early Bird drop, a Nap Stay, a Partial Day, a Full Day, or an Extended Day. Prices vary depending on the times you need.

We hope you enjoyed the return of the Children's Christmas Program that we had on Dec. 12^h. This was a special time together visiting with the families of our program. **THANK YOU** to the staff and the children who spent many days practicing their songs in preparation for the fun event for everyone to enjoy. Also, **THANK YOU** to all those who brought treats to share.

We feel blessed to continue serving families and providing the best care and early childhood education to the children in our program. We extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all the families who have chosen our program. As a quality childcare provider, our staff participates in the Quality Counts program provided through the San Luis Obispo Child Care Planning Council. This service offers our staff continued education opportunities and stipends for their continued professional and educational achievements.

Please check to make sure your child has a set of Extra Clothes. Also, this is a good time to check if your child has extra clothes in their cubby and if the ones in his/her cubby still fit and are appropriate for the weather.

BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

Wed. Jan. 8 and Thurs. Jan. 9 2025 in the Narthex at 9:00 am.

Bible Story: "**Fish for Breakfast**", from the Beginning Bible, John 21.

Song: **Joy, Joy, Joy**

The Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "**Joy**".



Dates To Remember

Wed. Jan 1—We are closed for New Year's Day.

Mon., Jan. 20 - School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This is also the last day to order Scholastic Books .



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Thank You to
our January



Friends of the Children's
Center Sponsor:
Michelle Richardson

Ms. Swati's TK Class

December was a whirlwind! Thank you to Ms. Ladonna, Ms. Shirley, and Ms. Mary for covering for me while I was gone to India to be with my family. We hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas with friends and family! We also hope your time off with your children was filled with laughter and love. I am really honored to be your child's teacher and appreciate your generosity and support of our program and class. During this month, children created many Christmas-themed art activities to go with this special holiday we all enjoy. The children made a very special gift to give to their families. In addition, we talked about why we celebrate Christmas. It is when Jesus was born. Children colored and created a "Jesus is Born" book to go along with our bible story. The children decorated shiny stars with foil and trees and ornaments with colored sequences. They also painted a stocking and then added cotton balls and jewels.

Thank you to all who came to the Christmas Program and helped out for the social. The children had waited for that special event to come and were excited to have their families see them up on stage and hear their beautiful voices.

As we look forward to a New Year in 2025, I will be observing the children to uncover the many interests they have so that we can continue to incorporate them into our curriculum, along with our Kindergarten readiness curriculum. We will include learning to count by tens. Practice placing a star symbol on the class birthday calendar so the children can see how many months are left in TK to prepare them for starting Kindergarten. Also, this is a good time to reach out to your child's upcoming school to find out when they will conduct their Kindergarten Round-Up. They usually take place in the spring (Mar, Apr, or May) and will allow your child to see their potential new school and teacher.

For January, we are moving forward with our Zoo Phonics, introducing Pp and Qq. We look forward to your child sharing pictures for these letters in the weeks ahead. Our moral teaching for the month is Joy, so we will also discuss what brings us joy, such as our families and friends. Happy New Year! ~ Ms. Swati

Ms. Liz's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We welcome 2025 and can't wait to start this new year off. I was sad to miss the Christmas Program, and wanted to thank Ms. Shirley for covering for me while my husband and I went to watch our son graduate from the Air Force Academy in San Antonio, Texas.

This month, we begin our focus on winter weather and the changing of the seasons. Although we don't have snow in Arroyo Grande, we will discuss winter weather in our area, where we get rain and high tides. We have pictures posted on the wall as a visual aid. Children are enjoying racking the leaves in the backyard. Through books and videos, we will learn about winter plants, animals, and new concepts like Hiberna-

tion.

To start the new year, we will begin a new routine in the class. Before snack and lunch, their names will be placed in front of a chair, and the child will be asked to find their names and say the letters in their name. We will practice tracing their name as one of the classroom activities. This will help enforce the skills of identifying their name and learning to trace. Children enjoy building with the blocks and hiding the small animals within the blocks. They also enjoyed weighing different items on the scale to see which side was heavier. We will work on some fun art projects like the name Snowman and making snowflakes.

As we have started a New Year, please restock extra clothes in your child's cubby since they may have outgrown them. In addition, please make sure to continue sending your child wearing layers as we are still in our cold months.

Thank you to all of our cherished Preschool Families as we look forward to another amazing year.

~ With best regards, Liz Delory

Ms. Sibyl & Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddlers

Happy New Year to you all! It is always nice to see the children and families following our Christmas break and to start up our familiar routines once again. Routines and consistency are so important for all of us, especially for young children. They help to provide the sense of security we need in the ever-changing world we live in.

Thanks to all of you who could attend the Annual Christmas Program and Social. It was such a joyful time of celebration. The children were so adorable and did such a wonderful job. We continued to sing "Jingle Bells" throughout the month and had lots of singing and dancing in the classroom as we ended the year. The toddlers joyfully danced, with their scarves, to Christmas music, including "Happy Birthday Jesus" and "How on Earth Can God's Baby Sleep." They also enjoyed dancing with their teddy bears, following the song instructions to "Dance with your Teddy Bear." There were many other holiday activities that captured their interests, including decorating our tiny classroom tree with candy canes and a tree branch in the Courtyard with bead necklaces, using gift boxes and bags in their explorations of other materials in the classroom and in their sensory tubs; and revisited the story of Jesus' birth as they played with the nativity set and the nativity flannel board pieces.

The children have already noticed changes in the weather, and we look forward to fostering their curiosity as we explore some of these changes together. We will also involve the children in more group participation activities as they show more interest in interactions with each other.

Thank you for showering us with Christmas gifts and blessings. We feel so appreciated.

May each of you be filled with peace and joy as you journey through this new year.

With love and blessings, Cindy Bo