

DEAR FAMILIES,

Someone said, "We all have a role in creating a future worth living into." At Childtime®, we are grateful that you have chosen us as a partner in creating your family's future.

As adults, we live with children in the present, but always with an eye on the future that we wish to create. Imagine your child 20 years from now. What kind of young adult do you envision? What traits and characteristics would you like to see reflected in the person your child has become? The key elements of that adult are cultivated now during these earliest years of your child's development.

If you envision a creative thinker, you must now provide your preschooler with opportunities to use materials in new ways, time to tell fantastical stories and chances to freely create with art materials (instead of following a model).

If you imagine a problem solver, you must now allow your infant time to figure out how to get out from under that chair (stepping in only when you see that she is getting frustrated).

If you would like to see a lifelong learner, you must now respond to your toddler's "what's" and "why's" and ask open-ended questions (those that cannot be answered with one word) that encourage thought.

If you visualize an independent leader, you must now let your school-ager make some choices (even if they are not the ones you might make).

If you want a kind and respectful adult, you must take every opportunity to model these behaviors to your child.

Providing an atmosphere in which the above can occur can be frustrating and difficult at times. Keep in mind the vision that you have as an adult and know that the steps that you are taking now will result in a future worth living into.

For our part, Childtime is committed to helping your child develop the academic, social, emotional and physical skills that are needed to navigate the way through today and into tomorrow.

Respectfully,
The Education Team



If you would like to respond to anything you read, have parenting questions or child development topics that you'd like to see explored in future issues of this monthly newsletter, please email us at education@childtime.com. We would love to hear from you!

WITH IMAGINATION COMES INCREDIBLE DISCOVERIES

Perhaps imagination is only intelligence having fun. – Author: George Scialabba

Research shows that having children share stories or details on personal events encourages active participation, higher-level thinking, imagination and expression of emotions. Most children are eager to participate in conversations that revolve around their own thoughts and experiences. One way to invite children to express their feelings is by showing them artwork or having them create their own masterpieces. When children look at artwork, they begin to tell stories. The stories may relate to a real life event or experience or an imaginary one. Through storytelling, they learn about their friends, about the artwork and about possibilities. Children bring their backgrounds, values and opinions to a classroom, and share them by telling stories.

Take some time and look through a magazine or art book with your child, or visit a museum together. Ask your child questions about what they see such as:

- Let's look at these paintings/pictures. What do you see?
- What do you think the _____ is doing?
- How does this picture make you feel?

Always accept their interpretations, and encourage them to take more risks in expressing their observations and beliefs. These conversations can turn into storytelling and an imaginative journey through your child's life. You may even learn something new about your child ... and we know our teachers will too!

In fact, a teacher was amazed at how safe one boy felt by the end of the school year. He shared with her: "My hopes and dreams for the future are that scientists will find a cure for every bad thing; that there will be world peace, and that people learn that imagination is more important than knowledge, and use imagination to make the world a better place."

We at Childtime believe with imagination comes wonder, amazing creations and incredible discoveries – not just in art, but also in life.

CHILDTIME'S THE EMPOWERED CHILD™ CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

The Empowered Child™ curriculum supports your child by developing the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to succeed in kindergarten, throughout elementary education and across a lifetime of learning. Childtime teachers plan lessons in many important academic disciplines, including:

READING & WRITING

Your child learns to love and understand the written word by journal-writing, experiencing wonderful books, storytelling and participating in regular large and small group activities that focus on letter shapes and sounds.

MATHEMATICS

By counting, patterning, sorting, classifying, estimating and predicting, your child develops foundational math skills and an appreciation for the world of numbers.

SCIENCE

Performing experiments, investigating properties and observing cause and effect help your child build scientific thinking skills and a connection with the natural world.

Through The Empowered Child curriculum, children feel valued for who they are. Students leave our program well-prepared for their future education, empowered to acquire the skills they will need to become responsible members of their community, creative problem solvers and life-long learners.

If you have questions about the Childtime classroom experience, please speak with your director or contact us at info@childtime.com.



FOCUS ON LEARNING AT CHILDTIME®



Children are active learners and each experience plays a critical role in learning new skills. Exploring together in the sensory table is just one of our many learning activities at Childtime. Remember that:

- Sensory table activities that develop hand muscles and fine-motor skills, such as pouring, scooping, raking, and constructing with sand and ice engage children and prepare them for writing.
- This is a way for children to problem solve and learn to anticipate and adapt their actions for success.
- While working together, children are able to negotiate and practice skills of expressing their needs, as well as work on their listening skills.
- Activities that engage children's imaginations promote both critical and creative thinking skills.

Next time you see your child playing in the sensory table, remember that your child is getting to learn these new skills while having fun.

EXTEND THE CHILDTIME EXPERIENCE INTO YOUR HOME

There are many ways to support your child's development at home. Here are some activities you can do together that will support your child's growth.

Infant – Sit on the floor with your infant. Place a brightly colored item in one of your pockets (make sure part of it is showing). Ask her where it is. Take it out and show it to her (and show your excitement!). Continue if she seems interested.

Beginning Steps/Exploration Station – Place some newspaper, tissue paper, junk mail, magazine pages or any other type of paper on the floor next to your child. Show him how to scrunch up a piece of paper to make a ball. Put an empty box on the floor and let him try to toss the paper ball into the box.

Early Learners – Play some music and start to walk around the room or from room to room. Call out a movement (such as

forward, backward, sideways, little steps, giant steps, like a cat, like an elephant, etc.) and then move like that as quickly as possible. Have your child call out some movements to also try.

Skill Builders/Kindergarten Connection – Take turns challenging each other to walk like a particular person might (tightrope walker, astronaut on the moon, old person, baby learning to walk, circus clown, marching soldier, etc.). If your child seems interested, try having her do these movements backwards.

Discovery Club – Face your child. One of you is the leader and moves a part of the body slowly. The other copies the action as closely as possible before exchanging roles. Try speeding up or slowing down your actions by adding music.

