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Greetings from the Board President

I am really looking forward to meeting you on April 27 at our All Site Meeting. I will be delivering a presentation on language development and concentrating on the pre-school years. Your participation in the classroom, particularly alongside the Early Intervention Clinics, has provided you with some therapeutic methods for facilitating language development, first hand. My presentation will help put that knowledge into context.

One of our purposes in mixing the Yikes Tikes! children with the children in CSLOT's Early Intervention program is to further the language development of the latter, while giving the Yikes Tikes! children the experience of being helpful models. This collaboration will continue in an expanded Yikes Tikes! program called Yikes Tikes Too! in which children with special rights will attend Yikes Tikes! with the support of trained clinical aides, and will benefit from daily group therapy provided by CSLOT's clinicians. Thus, in addition to providing additional clinical services for the children who need them, CSLOT will benefit from the added revenue which will help support the Yikes Tikes! program overall.

At the April 27 event, I will be available to answer any questions you may have about Yikes Tikes Too!

Brendan O'Connor Webster
 President, CSLOT and Yikes Tikes!

At Yikes Tikes! we welcome children of varied developmental abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. We combine a range of age groups in our Reggio Emilia-inspired approach, helping children develop empathy, understanding, acceptance and respect for the differences of others. This imparts self-confidence, a sense of belonging, and appreciation for personal uniqueness. We provide a family-focused environment that offers children an expansive range of perspectives, emulating and celebrating the diversity of the Bay Area and the world beyond.



Order & Payment due date: **May 10, 2013**
 Checks payable to: **Yikes Tikes!**
 Turn-in: **Your Classroom Rep/Teacher**

Tikes Talk

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- Greeting from the Board President



Technology in the Yikes Tikes! Classroom

Toddlers and screen time is a hot topic right now (check out The Atlantic's recent article, *The Touchscreen Generation*). Much as we'd like to insist that our children just *go outside and play*, like we did back in the day, the reality is that tablets and smartphones are here to stay, and our toddlers are exposed to them in a way that no other generation has experienced. So how do we navigate the new technological landscape with very young children?

Yikes Tikes! has embraced technology in the classroom as a teaching tool. We believe that technology can be embedded into children's centers and enhance their learning and development during choice time as well as in small group experiences. But, we wanted to see for ourselves, so last year we embarked on an inquiry of our own about using an iPad in the classroom.

Our teacher Hager Suliman worked with a CSLOT therapist, Melissa McClung, to determine the efficacy of using an iPad during circle time. Their study, presented by our Inclusion Coordination Team at ASHA's (American Speech and Hearing Association) 2013 national convention, showed an increase in social engagement in both atypically- and typically-developing children. Using an iPad primarily as a means of photo documentation and revisiting classroom activities *with the children* aligns with our classroom and inclusion goals in a number of ways:

- Serves as a means of documentation through photos and video
- Photos and videos available as source of immediate feedback for children and adults

- Accessible to children of all levels and abilities
- Increases social engagement among children
- Reflects "natural environment" experiences children have had at home using similar technologies
- Provides a way of revisiting previous activities and experiences, facilitating discussion, reflection, and meta-cognition.

The iPad has been a useful tool in our classrooms. However, we also believe technology should be never be used to replace the concrete, real life experiences critical to a young child's learning, and must always be used in balance with other meaningful activities and routines.

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San Jose Classroom News With Gerry



Yikes Tikes San Jose is in full swing into spring. Our theme in the past couple weeks has been spring and things we might associate with it.

The class has made flowers and butterflies using coffee filters and color. With these, the children created a beautiful mural.

We use the butterflies and flowers as a tool to learn counting and colors.

During inclusion, another spring related project was planting sunflower and sugar snap peas. The group gathered around the table and took turns scooping soil into egg cartons. Then they put a seed into the soil. The social interaction was energetic and lively. Diamond instructed Alejandra, "you put, here." Lucas helped Moises scoop dirt onto Moises' spoon and said, "Moises needs to get dirt." The kids have been watering the plants and watching them grow. This project



demonstrated appropriate social interaction with one peer helping another and the language was encouraging.

In addition, ladybugs were brought in a jar. We took turns looking at them and discussing what color they are. We later made ladybugs using paper plates and construction paper. They painted the plates black, then adding red wings with black dots. We discuss the color and counted the dots.



We're going to continue more spring related projects and building from those ideas for future projects.

—Gerry Acheta

Los Altos Classroom News with Monalisa

Happy Spring! When you come visit the Los Altos Yikes Tikes! classroom you will see the children's study of robots showcased in the art area. It took one child naming a PVC pipe as a robot, to spark the class' interest. Since the idea was introduced, the children requested robot books for circle time and seen newspaper clippings of a robot exhibit from their community. As the class viewed pictures from the newspaper clipping, they pointed out "pipes" and named a robot as "Wall-e," a character from their favorite robot book.



The class was presented with different materials used to construct robots, such as wood scraps and metal or PVC pipes. The children extended their imagination in all learning areas, building robots out of legos, blocks, or recycled materials, such as cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, straws, empty spools, fabric and pipe cleaners. Because of this study the children learned to identify the different shapes found in parts of a robot, which has inspired them to recognize the shapes in everything else in their environment.

—Monalisa Villamar

Fremont Classroom News with Hajer

Our class has integrated the use of educational technology with an Ipad as our newest learning tool. We've utilized the Ipad for story time read-aloud's, writing, and music. As most of our children regularly interact with technology at home, introducing it's use in the class has been a great way to reinforce kinder readiness and meet social/emotional needs like self regulation, turn taking, and sharing. The response from the class has been positive with growing curiosity and interest. So far, our favorite classroom app's include Monkey Drum, an interactive drumming app teaching patterns through sound and Bob Books, an interactive pre-reading skills online book.



Spring is a wonderful time to visit local parks, gardens and the zoo. On our first class trip of the season we went to Happy Hollow. With

of lemurs. Children were introduced to the concept of natural habitats and endangered animals. We wrapped up our visit with park rides and a puppet theater show.



— Hajer Suliman

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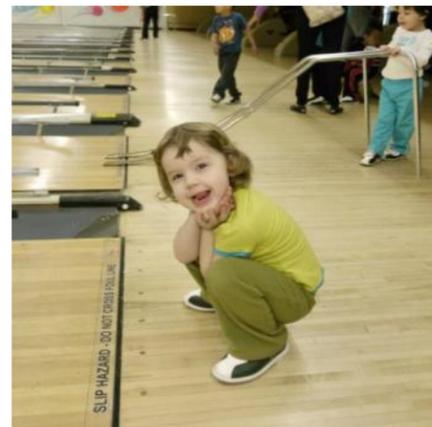


Redwood City Classroom News with Martha

During the month of March the children have been working with the alphabet. Every week they have a new letter to learn, and the words that start with that specific letter. The children learn to sound out the letters, they count out how many letters are in each word they learn and also they start recognizing the numbers.

They are also recognizing the vowels and combining the vowels with consonants.

We've been playing a game with the numbers showing the children number cards, they see the number



Yikes Tikes! Bowl-A-Thon Events

The two bowlathon fundraising events. on March 23rd and April 20th were a huge success.

Thank you to those who came out for a fun morning or afternoon of bowling with your friends and family.

Though the final numbers aren't in yet, we raised over \$1,500 for the school.

Thank You Sponsors!

In Santa Clara: Center for Speech, Language and Occupational Therapy ● Extra Space Storage ● Illusive Comics & Games ● The Doung Family ● Word Power Plus

In Fremont: Center for Speech, Language and Occupational Therapy ● City Sports Club ● IABA ● Joanne Brown Dancers ● Kid's Art Bash ● Kinder's Restaurant ● Once Upon a Child ● Setty Dental ● Tocci Quinces and Weddings