

Tikes Talk

A Quarterly Newsletter for Yikes Tikes! Preschool

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What's a Parent Co-Op, and Why Should I Be A Member?

What is the Yikes Tikes! Parent Co-Op?

A parent co-operative preschool is governed by parents and a Board of Directors. Parents sit on the Board, assist in the classroom, organize fundraisers, and are involved in other support activities. Membership is voluntary and open to all persons willing to accept the responsibilities of membership. Each member family is responsible for performing at least one co-op job. Parents with schedules that don't allow workday participation may send a family member as a substitute, or in some cases perform other jobs for the co-op. Each member family has a vote in key policy deci-

sions that affect their child's education. Enrollment preference is given to current Yikes Tikes! families, employees of CSLOT and Yikes Tikes!, and donors to Yikes Tikes!

Reasons to Join Yikes Tikes! Parent Co-Op:

1. No fee for your child to attend up to 20 hours of Yikes Tikes!
2. Benefit from parent education and empowerment workshops.
3. Form family-to-family friendships that last years.
4. Enjoy parent-teacher interactions and smoother transitions.
5. Interact with other parents to share stories and experiences.
6. Be part of a community

network that supports families.

7. Make sure your child is receiving high-quality care by participating in the classroom.
8. Increase your child's IQ score and school performance by participating in his or her education.
9. Share important life experiences with your child.
10. Starting September 1st, your family must be a member of the Yikes Tikes! Parent Co-Op in order for your child to attend Yikes Tikes!

Talk to your Yikes Tikes! teacher for a co-op member application and job list.

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Orientation to the Parent Co-Op for Current Parents and Prospective Families

Yikes Tikes! will hold **orientation sessions** for current Yikes Tikes! parents and families who are interested in joining the co-op. We will meet in **Fremont on Aug. 21**, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 pm, in **Los Altos on Aug. 22**, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 pm, in **San Jose on Aug. 23rd**, 2012, from 6:30-7:30 pm,

and in **Redwood City on Aug. 24th**, 2012, from 5:30-6:30 pm. **Childcare and light refreshments will be provided.** Topics covered will include the benefits of the co-op model, what to expect from your co-op membership, orientation to the Parent Handbook, and a Q&A. For more informa-

tion, ask your Yikes Tikes! teacher about this orientation or check our website, www.yikestikes.com.

FREMONT CLASSROOM NEWS WITH HAJER

Insect Explorations

We have recently been exploring insects. Our study began when our children discovered snails near the large windows in our outdoor space. Their curiosity grew as we observed how snails move, where they live, and how they should be handled. We collected snails to bring into the classroom. Our group worked together to create a snail habitat using a large glass jar with carefully placed natural items including leaves, rocks, and sticks. The following day our class created

representations of a snail home.

The following week we explored crickets, discussing the differences between snails and crickets including movement, form, and habitat. We read *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle. I purchased a bag of ten crickets from the pet store and brought them to class. Children responded enthusiastically, one child saying, "Crickets need trees for food, I think he wants to go outside." These explorations promote communication, science concepts, and literacy.

**Upcoming Events/
Field Trip**

We are in the process of planning our next field trip to Fremont's Natural Sciences Museum. Look for the flyer posted in our classroom with details.

Classroom Wish List

1. Oil-based paints (non-toxic)
2. Medium-size baskets
3. Small-size mason jars



Noe's Artwork

REDWOOD CITY CLASSROOM NEWS WITH MARTHA

"One child's ideas about whales eating fishes, which he connected from the 'Octopus' song, guided the children's learning in a new direction."

Food Projects

The children showed an interest in planting seeds so this gave teachers an idea for a snack project. Our snack project was called "Planting Seeds" and it was made up of pudding, oreos, and jelly beans. The children followed instructions from the

teachers on how to prepare the pudding, taking turns to mix the powder and water. We all enjoyed smashing oreo cookies, some more than others, to make the edible soil, and placed the jellybeans in it. The children were sticky and thoroughly enjoying the oreo crumbles in

between their little fingers.

We also learned how to make a healthy fruit juice. They were amazed to see the juicing process. They all got very excited to juice their own orange and each took a turn. The juice was delicious!

Wish List:

1. A medium size blackboard
2. A bucket of chalks
3. Letter size white paper
4. Folders for children's work
5. A computer for the site

LOS ALTOS CLASSROOM NEWS WITH MONALISA

Sea Creature Studies

In the past month, the children have lead a study on sea creatures. While sharks and whales started our journey under the sea, one child's ideas about whales eating fishes, which he connected from the "Octopus" song, guided the children's learning in a new direction. In circle time we have read books and identified new sea creatures, from starfish, sea horses, jellyfish, and many more. The chil-

dren have also discerned the different species and classified the different sizes, sorting the larger creatures as "mom" or "dad" and the smaller ones as "baby" or connecting them to his or herself. In our classroom you will find a school of fish mobile and under the sea painting, which teachers and children created together. Teachers added pictures of real sea creatures to the under the sea painting, so the children can see how these crea-

tures look in real life. Parents are encouraged to expand their child's exploration by visiting pet stores with fish, or by visiting aquariums. Please share your experience with us!

Wish List

1. Colored tissue paper
2. Magazines with pictures of sea creatures
3. "The Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister
4. Pencil sharpener
5. Puppets



Holden examines the shape of a shell

6. Dress-up clothes for dramatic play

Schedule Changes and Expanded Hours

Yikes Tikes! is pleased to announce it now offers 20 hours of high-quality preschool care per week in three locations! Starting August 1, we provide five-hour sessions, four days/week. Our preschoolers are now given more time to explore learning

centers and build relationships with peers and teachers. Your child may attend some or all days. Please see your Yikes Tikes! teacher for details.

Enroll Now!

We are accepting new enrollment in all Yikes Tikes! locations. Please call the offices for more information and an enrollment packet. See back page for contact information.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fremont	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	No class	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30
Los Altos	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	No class
San Jose	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	8:30-1:30	No class
Redwood City	No class	12:30-5:00	No class	12:30-5:00	3:30-5:00

Reggio Emilia Corner THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The Reggio Approach derives its name from its place of origin, Reggio Emilia, a city located in Northern Italy. Shortly after the Second World War, Loris Malaguzzi, a young teacher and the founder of this unique system, joined forces with the parents in the region to provide child care for young children. Originally inspired by the need of women to return to the work force, over the last 50 years, this education system has de-

veloped into a unique approach that has caught the attention of early childhood educators worldwide.

At the heart of this system is the powerful image of the child. Reggio educators do not see children as empty vessels. Rather they see children as full of potential, competent and capable of building their own ideas.

Starting from this point of

reference, we recognize the right of children to realize and expand their potential and have an active role in making decisions about their learning.

In Yikes Tikes!, we are inspired by this philosophy. Our teachers and CSLOT’s therapists are engaged in educating themselves in how to apply Reggio Emilia to our classrooms.

We invite your participation in our community of learners.

“Reggio educators see children as full of potential, competent and capable of building their own ideas.”

SAN JOSE CLASSROOM NEWS WITH CLAUDIA

Classroom Creatures

At this moment children’s interests have been directed towards different types of spiders, their environments, and their webs. We have a resident spider living in a jar in our classroom! Our classroom also hosts a beta fish in a fishbowl, which has lead to children showing interest in different types of fish and the ocean.

Sensory activities and cooking activities have also been highlighted in our classroom lately. We made smoothies last week and toast the week before! We have also been revisiting favorite activities from previous weeks.

Wish List

1. Pillows and pillow cases
2. Chair or couch

3. T-shirts
4. Sheets
5. Blankets
6. Mirrors
7. Flash lights
8. Table cloths
9. Flower vases





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We're on the web!
www.yikestikes.com

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.

Get Involved With Yikes Tikes!

Yikes Tikes Presents

Children's Halloween Carnival

Games and prizes!
Food!
Music!
Costumes!
Activities!
Come enjoy live music and entertainment, tour our Yikes Tikes! Los Altos facility, meet the staff and other Yikes Tikes families, bounce in the bouncy house, paint a pumpkin, make a mask, bob for apples, and show off your Halloween costume!

October 20, 10 am-2 pm.
1577 Carob Ln, Los Altos, CA 94054



From the Yikes Tikes! Board President

On May 10, 2012, Yikes Tikes! held a Blue Ribbon Nomination Luncheon to recruit members for Yikes Tikes! Board of Directors. The luncheon brought six new board members to Yikes Tikes, which now has nine members and anticipates having two parent join once the Parent Co-Op has been established.

Yikes Tikes! Board of Directors is responsible for the success of Yikes Tikes! as a non-profit 501.c (3) agency. Our three essential foci are serving children, fundraising, and name/brand awareness. Of course, serving children is what Yikes Tikes! is about, and this newsletter brings you current with what's happening in our classrooms. Yikes Tikes! is currently in the process of looking for a Development Director to head our fundraising activities, and is posting this position in various non-profit venues. To increase public awareness of Yikes Tikes! the Board is hosting a family carnival in Los Altos on October 6. We invite your family to participate and get to know the Yikes Tikes! community.

Please tell your friends about Yikes Tikes! We offer rolling enrollment, a supportive community of families, and all the educational benefits of a high-quality preschool program. Join our members in creating a more inclusive world for children.

—Brendan O'Connor Webster, Board President

