



Tikes Talk

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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.

From the Board of Directors, Get Involved With Yikes Tikes!

The Parent Advisory Committee

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) was created by the Board of Directors as a formal way to include parent perspectives in the Board's decision-making process. PAC members actively reach out to engage families in policy discussions and to represent parent concerns to the Board. The PAC also provides support for teachers, and promotes community spirit through fundraising efforts, member development, and board direction. Some examples of PAC work are:

- Site-specific events to build community such as class graduation and milestone celebrations
- Sourcing revenue for YT through grants, fundraising programs, etc
- Helping to organize and supervise extra-curricular activities such as field trips
- Recruiting and coordinating volunteers
- Providing special recognition in awards ceremonies or through other activities
- Organizing parent education events
- Planning teacher appreciation activities

Join the Yikes Tikes! Parent Advisory Committee! To get involved, contact Los Altos Parent Rep — Anna Cebrian: anna@illusivcomics.com



Yikes Tikes Parent Advisory Committee
 Cordially Invites You to the

**FIRST ANNUAL
 HOLIDAY
 PARTY**

December 1st
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

414 Fourth Avenue
 Redwood City

Children are welcome, but please bring \$2 for babysitting costs

Please bring a potluck dish or drink for this brunch

Please also bring a Thank You gift for your child's teacher or classroom

We will be using this opportunity to meet each other so at least one parent from each household should attend.



Tikes Talk

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Young Children and Art

Art is an important part of Early Childhood programs. Not only does making art encourage the child's creativity and self-expression, but it builds motor, social, and cognitive skills.

Young children feel a sense of emotional satisfaction and control when they are making art. Deciding what they will make and what materials they will use may be the first opportunity children have to make independent decisions.

Making art also builds children's self-esteem by giving them opportunities to express what they are thinking and feeling. Small group art activities also help children practice important social skills like taking turns, sharing, and negotiating for materials.

For very young children, making art is a sensory exploration activity. They enjoy the feeling of a crayon moving across paper and seeing a blob of colored paint grow larger. Exploring materials is very important because it is through exploration that children build a knowledge of the objects in the world around them. As children grow and develop, their art-making activities

move beyond exploring with their senses and begin to involve the use of symbols. It is a needed outlet for children whose vocabulary, written or verbal, may be limited. This early use of symbols in artwork is very important because it provides a foundation for children's later use of words to symbolize objects and actions in formal writing.

While making art, young children develop control of large and small muscle groups. The large arm movements required for painting build coordination and strength. The smaller movements of fingers, hands, and wrists required to cut with scissors, model clay, or draw or paint on smaller surfaces develop fine motor dexterity and control. With repeated opportunities for practice, young children gain confidence in their use of tools for making art and later for writing.

Making art also helps children develop eye-hand coordination. As children decide how to make parts fit together into a whole, where to place objects, and what details to include, they learn to coordinate what they see with the move-

ments of their hands and fingers. This eye-hand coordination is essential for many activities, including forming letters and spacing words in formal writing.

Reggio-inspired educators view children's art as evidence of learning. Art is not an isolated activity, but an important educational method that suffuses all aspects of the program, and through which learning is made visible.

At Yikes Tikes! we are excited about a new direction our art program is taking. We are working with CD Hullinger, a children's book illustrator and art educator, to develop and enrich our art program. CD recently gave a hands-on workshop to teachers and therapists, helping them get comfortable with different materials and techniques that they can then bring to their classroom. We used recycled wood, acrylic paint, stones, pebbles, leaves, glue, twigs, and found objects to create sculptures. She is also providing in-classroom coaching to us. Learn more about CD at her website, www.cdullinger.com.

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Fremont Classroom News with Hajer

Early in the season our class participated in Ardenwood Farms naturalist preschool program. We met with park ranger Ira who led us through an interactive storytime and demonstrated daily farm chores including processing corn and feeding animals. Each child had the opportunity to grind corn by hand!

As our group toured the farm grounds we fed chickens, petted goats, and marveled at the vast corn and pumpkin fields. These experiences introduced our class to the care of animals as well as locally grown fruits and vegetables. At the end of our tour, park

ranger Ira invited our group to take home an ear of Indian corn as a reward for their work on the farm.

Currently our class is exploring shapes and spatial sense through use of mirrors with blocks play, matching and sorting magnetic shapes, and recreating blocks structures in drawings. These activities encourage exploration of lines of symmetry and help children develop understanding of spatial relations.

—Hajer Suliman



Fremont Yikes Tikes! shows off their ears of corn.

Los Altos Classroom News with Monalisa

"I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Los Altos parents for your donation of needed classroom materials, and enthusiasm in supporting Yikes Tikes! as a whole."

The Los Altos class have delved into several new studies in the past few months. Mid- August, Teachers and Therapists planned a curriculum around a window study. For this exploration, we experimented looking through the window from different point of views, such as looking from the outside in, or placing furniture by windows for children to climb on to look outdoors. Additionally, the children were given several different tools and media to use on the windows; from paint brushes, shaving cream, and window markers, to spray bottles and tissue paper. In this study, children engaged socially on either side of the window, painting shaving cream or scribbling with window markers to hide a peer or adult on the other side. They particularly enjoyed their friends' facial expressions in response to their actions. The window study then lead to an outdoor study, with children gravitating to the outdoor space and aiming for trees with spray bottles. The class began having snack and lunch outdoors, and took nature walks. During these walks,

children collected outdoor objects, and took their collection of rocks, dirt, flowers, and twigs, to create a beautiful collage with a painted backdrop they created. Besides our studies, we have currently been doing festive art projects and activities for the coming season and holidays.

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Los Altos parents for your donation of needed classroom materials and enthusiasm in supporting Yikes Tikes as a whole.

—Monalisa Villamar



Holden and Monalisa work on the window study.

Books to Share

The Shape of Things
by Dayle Anne Dodds

Going on a Leaf Hunt
by Steve Metzger

Round is a Moon Cake
by Rosanne Thong



Mother-daughter art collaboration in San Jose

Announcements

Yikes Tikes! held our first community fundraising event on October 20th, a Children's Halloween Carnival at the Los Altos site. We had about 130 people participate throughout the day, enjoying Halloween crafts and games, music, bouncing in the bounce house, food (provided by our neighbor, Café Vitale), and sunshine— it was a beautiful day. Costumes ranged from princesses to pirates and our face painter gave extra flair to those who chose. Our silent auction, featuring generous donations from the Loyola Corners community, raised over \$300 for Yikes Tikes!



A princess paints a pumpkin.

Thank You to Our Carnival Sponsors!

- The Bicycle Outfitter •Tom's Depot
- Linden Tree Books •Snap Fitness
- Bliss Beauty Center •Café Vitale
- Beauty, Gifts, & More •Drawn 2 Art
- Andronico's Market •This Old Toilet
- Shawsu Workout Studio •Koko Fitness
- Dr. Joel Levitz, DC. • Bumble Los Altos
- Illusive Comics and Games •Levitz Family
- Mayfield Bakery and Café
- Summerwinds Nursery

Yikes Tikes! T-Shirts Are Here!



Yikes Tikes! T-shirts are now available for purchase at every Yikes Tikes! location. \$20 buys any size, including adult S-XL and child S-L.

San Jose Classroom News With Gerry

Introducing Gerry Acheta, New Teacher!

Dear Yikes Tikes! Community,

My name is Gerry Acheta and the I am new Yikes Tikes! Teacher for the San Jose location. I have a degree in Psychology from San Jose State and have been involved with CSLOT for the past 5 years. I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to join the Yikes Tikes! family. I would like to thank the parents and staff for their endless support.

My first focus in San Jose will be on the family, allowing the children and parents to explore and learn together about each other's diverse and unique families. To start this study of families, I invite parents to bring in framed photos of family members, just like the photos you have at home. We will hang it in

our classroom, creating an atmosphere that helps you and your child feel connected and part of the overall learning process. The parent and child interaction is a key component of our program, and we will be expanding on those interactions in and out of the classroom. Therefore, I will encourage, support, and help parents to be involved with class.

I am excited to be a part of the Yikes Tikes! program, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

—Gerry Acheta



Snack time in Redwood City with Diego, Martha, and Bryan.

Redwood City Classroom News With Martha

During the month of October the children were interested in music. They played with musical instruments, marching around the classroom with their favorites. They also made their own instruments, decorated with stickers and painted with markers. They made shakers out of two paper plates and rice. After they finish making their instrument, the children danced and played rhythms. The following week, continuing with their interest in music,

they created sounds using different recycled containers. They used a little wood box, a small pot, a big aluminum container, and a metal lid. The children experimented with making different sounds, loud or the soft sounds. They noticed what item made the loudest sound and what item made the softest sound. Then each had a turn to choose two of their favorite items to make music. They had so much fun listening to each other!

—Martha Arellano