

February 2010

## Dear Families,

For many across the country, this month brings with it thoughts of love. For any child, the greatest gift that you can give is that of unconditional love; to instill the belief that no matter what, they are worthy of being loved by someone else.

All too often, parenting is a tireless and thankless job – the gifts of which can be few (and far between) and often not seen until a child is a grown person out in the world. In honor of the job you do, we would like to share some quotes to thank you for the love you give to the children in your lives.

*When I was very young, most of my heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.*

– Fred Rogers

*Love is something that you can leave behind when you die. It's that powerful.*

– John (Fire) Lame Deer

*Beauty in its truest form is seeing the world through a child's eyes: seeing the excitement, the wonder, and the innocence. When I allow myself to do that, I am my happiest.*

– Laurie Numedahl-Meuwissen

*With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may never see.*

– Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*Light tomorrow with today!*

– Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Respectfully,  
The Education Team



Image costs \$300

## Helping Children Handle Life's Changes

As adults, we go through a lot these days. We have had salary cuts or even lost our jobs. Our parents are aging and we need to spend more time supporting them. Maybe we are worried about our marriage or meeting our bills. These are big changes in our lives; but we need to remember that children also go through changes that affect them like divorce, moving to another city, losing a pet or saying goodbye to a parent being deployed overseas. A change in routine can greatly affect children. So from time to time, it's important to ask yourself, "What changes are big enough to really affect my children?"

Some children will hide their emotions instead of revealing their feelings. It is important for adults to know how to support children in coping with their feelings. Helping children write about their feelings or thoughts is a great way for them to express what is going on inside of them. When you help your child tell "his story," make sure you:

- Write legibly using standard spelling
- Sit so that he can watch as his words are written down
- Read the dictation back to your child while he tracks the print
- Encourage your child to "read" or re-tell his story to you, or at least ask if he needs to add anything or talk about what you or he wrote.

### Here is an example of how to help:

Four-year-old Haley charges into the classroom with her backpack and lunch box flailing behind. Her coat is on inside out. One pigtail is intact, but the other withers under a too-loose elastic band. "Move!" she declares loudly, bumping into several children while on the way to her cubby.

As the other children get settled into the daily routine, Ms. Smith, Haley's teacher, asks Haley to tell her about her morning. Haley narrates the details of oversleeping and hunting for misplaced shoes, and Ms. Smith records the words on paper. Finally, Haley concludes with a triumphant "The end!"

Ms. Smith reads the entire story back to Haley, pointing to each word as she reads: "I had a crazy morning today..."

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## What is Tutor Time® LifeSmart™?

Tutor Time® LifeSmart™ was designed by early childhood specialists and national experts to prepare children for kindergarten, elementary school and beyond. Because we know that our society places a strong emphasis on particular academic disciplines, the Tutor Time LifeSmart curriculum gives children particularly strong foundations in:

### Reading & Writing

Our WordSmart™ and Phonics Express programs support and guide emerging writing skills in large and small group activities. The Book Center provides children with a quiet place to explore quality literature. The Language Center provides them with the tools and materials they need to explore the written word. Journaling and interactive activities extend learning at home.

### Mathematics

Our MathSmart™ program means that counting, numbers and mathematical concepts play an important role in Tutor Time classrooms. The Math Center gives children daily opportunities to join in number games, sort and investigate patterns. During MathSmart Circle Times, teachers lead activities that allow children to actively explore important math concepts.

### Science

Our NatureSmart™ Circle Times give children the chance to perform experiments, investigate properties and observe cause and effect. The Nature Center provides children with a rich array of natural materials and tools, encouraging them to explore their understanding of the natural world and actively build scientific thinking skills.

If you have questions about the Tutor Time® classroom experience, please speak with your director or contact us at [ttinfo@tutortime.com](mailto:ttinfo@tutortime.com).

**TUTOR TIME**  
CHILD CARE / LEARNING CENTERS

[www.tutortime.com](http://www.tutortime.com)

## Creating Character

This program invites children to explore what it means to be a person of character. This month's book is *Tacky in Trouble* by Lynn Munsinger. It demonstrates how being different is what makes someone special. Make an "All About Me" poster, book or other display celebrating what makes your child special.

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Haley says with amazement, "Hey! My story is funny! Can I show it to my mommy?" Ms. Smith hands the paper to Haley, who draws a picture at the bottom of the page. (Young Children, January 2008)

Haley may have had a number of reasons why she overslept that morning from her dad moving out recently to her dog having recently died. Her dog always woke her up by licking her face and she is not used to the new alarm her mom bought her. Whatever the reason, first being able to talk about her experience, and then to write about it, helped her gain clarity, describe her morning out loud, and express her feelings before being able to let it all go.

So try this simple coping mechanism with your child. Sharing and expressing feelings and thoughts will help your child cope with any changes in his or her life. By validating your child's feelings and providing a safe environment in which to express them are great ways to assist your child as they cope with events in their lives.

## MOTHERHOOD COMING TO DVD & BLU-RAY

Uma Thurman, Anthony Edwards and Minnie Driver star in *MOTHERHOOD*, a hysterical new film for anyone who's ever had kids... Being a mom is never easy. Eliza Welsh (Thurman), a former fiction writer-turned-mommy-blogger realizes this first-hand on a seemingly endless day where she must plan a birthday party, deal with her scatter-brain husband, save her car from being towed, and write an essay for a parenting magazine before the fast-approaching deadline. That's *MOTHERHOOD*!



Available in stores everywhere on February 23, 2010.

SPECIAL ADDED VALUE OFFERS INSIDE EVERY DVD

## Extend the Tutor Time® Experience Into Your Home

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

**Infants** – Place a pile of pillows or blankets on the floor. Encourage your child to crawl over or around them.

**Toddlers/Twaddlers** – Encourage your child to act out the motions in the following poem. "I know someone very special. Do you know who? I'll turn around and turn. And then I'll point to you." If your child wants to do more actions, try jumping up and down, clapping your hands, flying like a bird, or let your child think of some actions.

**Preppers** – Say the following chant with your child and encourage them to do the actions. "One, two, three, touch your knee. One, two, three, knee, knee, knee." Repeat the chant changing the body part to touch your arm, head, or think of other body parts.

**Preschool/Pre-K** – Put a large grocery bag on one side of a room. Encourage your child to scrunch up scrap pieces of paper into balls. Let your child toss the paper balls into the bag. Have your child move farther and farther away from the bag and then try tossing the paper balls into the bag.

**Kindergarten/Adventure Club** – Place some spare change in a pile on the table. Encourage your child to grab a handful of coins and count the amount they have. Write the number on a piece of paper. Have them continue scooping and counting the money, and writing the amounts down on paper. If they are interested, have them add up the total amount of the coins scooped and write down the grand total.

## If You Build It...

Frank Lloyd Wright, a name that is well known today, began his career as a small child. He showed interest at a young age in architecture, exploring buildings, structures and homes. His mother noticed his interest and wanted to develop it, so she bought him a set of wood blocks.

One would think that a child would use simple blocks just as a toy. Indeed, Frank Lloyd Wright spent hours playing with the blocks, manipulating the different shapes to learn about balance, creating a different structure every time. When asked, as an adult, how he was able to accomplish such beauty, balance and skill in his architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright said "The maple-wood blocks ... are in my fingers to this day."

The experiences that he had with the blocks as a child introduced him to the math, science, art and spatial concepts he used as an adult to create the beautiful buildings that still amaze people today. At Tutor Time, supporting children in understanding the world around them is a priority. Our belief, based on nationally accepted research, is that a person can not be expected to communicate on paper until they have experienced concepts with three-dimensional

concrete materials. This is why we have dedicated learning centers and activities to building your child's DesignSmarts™.

When your child is building in the block center, painting at the easel or investigating color paddles at the light table, she is developing her DesignSmarts. From an outside perspective, it may just look like play. In reality, it is a concrete learning experience that will last a lifetime.

Reference: *Big Names Started with Little Blocks* by the Creativity Institute at <http://creativityinstitute.blogspot.com/>

## Focus on Learning

At Tutor Time, we know that children learn through hands-on activities that allow them to solve problems, experiment with cause and effect, and apply principles of trial and error. Our teachers create environments and plan activities that support children's abilities to construct their own knowledge. Look at the nearby photo of children engaged in an activity involving toilet paper. What might your child have learned through an activity like this?

In this hands-on activity, the children explored and learned about mummies, which they were reading and learning about in their classroom. They also practiced teamwork and problem-solving skills. The children needed each other to wrap themselves up like a mummy. They also had to figure out how to make the wrap stay on their bodies, and then how to get out of it. Because this was a fun and meaningful project, they will not only remember what they learned about mummies, but also the associated literacy and math factors.

Even more important than the scientific and social studies facts they learned about mummies were the changes that took place in the children's brains as they worked together to solve a problem. As we make discoveries, our brains develop so that we are able to make more connections and continue to learn more and more.

