

September 2009

Dear Families,

Someone said, "We all have a role in creating a future worth living into." At Tutor Time[®], 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, Tutor Time 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

Storytelling, Imagination and Art

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

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.

TUTOR TIME[®]
CHILD CARE / LEARNING CENTERS

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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 e-mail us at education@tutortime.com. We would love to hear from you!

Focus on Learning



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 Tutor Time. 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 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.

Infant – Sit on the floor away from your infant. Move two interesting toys (one in each hand) forward until they reach her. Laugh together.

Toddler/Twaddler – Sit on the floor facing your child and hold his hands. Lean forward so he goes back and reverse the process in a seesaw motion. Sing a favorite song together to the beat of your movements.

Prepper – Gather 6-10 medium-sized empty boxes or food containers. Take turns placing the boxes on top of each other until they fall down. Count the boxes as you go. If your child seems interested, try finding boxes or food containers in different sizes and build with those.

Preschool/Pre-K – Locate a piece of paper and a pencil. Help your child write down the shoe sizes of your family members. Gather one shoe from everyone and have him place them in order from smallest to biggest.

Kindergarten/Adventure Club – Get a pair of dice, some paper and a pencil. Have your child pick her favorite number. Keep track of how many rolls it takes to roll her number five times.

Smart in Many Ways

When you walk into your child's LifeSmart™ classroom you often see children involved in many different activities. One child is preparing a meal in the Pretend Center for another child to enjoy. A second child is looking at rocks and leaves with a magnifying glass in the Nature Center while describing what he sees. A third child is curled up on squishy pillows in the Me Center.

Tutor Time LifeSmart classrooms have many different centers and activities to meet the unique intelligences of each child. Harvard's Howard Gardner has identified eight ways that people are intelligent. The Tutor Time® LifeSmart™ curriculum is molded around eight "Smarts" that are related to these eight intelligences.

- **WordSmart™** – manipulates words, thinks out loud and tells stories
- **MathSmart™** – manipulates numbers, approaches problems logically and knows how things work
- **DesignSmart™** – thinks three-dimensionally, studies maps, draws and paints
- **MusicSmart™** – plays with music and duplicates patterns and rhythms
- **BodySmart™** – moves, uses body language and participates in physical activities
- **NatureSmart™** – cares for living things, enjoys being outside and is "in tune" with nature
- **PeopleSmart™** – works in groups, interacts with others, facilitates and leads
- **MeSmart™** – works alone, is introspective and focuses inward

Tutor Time provides your child with many different ways to become a smart kid. As you look around your child's classroom you will notice that the children are provided with hands-on learning activities, different centers to work in and a teacher trained in implementing the LifeSmart curriculum. This newsletter is provided to support your child in continuing to become a smart kid at home.

Over the next eight months, you will be provided with a series of articles that explore each Smart in detail. As you read about the different Smarts, think about your child and how she shows you how smart she is. Does your daughter spend time building ramps or drawing pictures? Does your baby reach to others to be held or smile when seeing people in the store? Does your toddler jump, hop, run and dance? As you think about all of the different things your child does, you will notice all of the different ways she is smart.



Creating Character

This program invites children to explore what it means to be a person of character. This month's book is *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. This story explores different names, teaching respect for differences. Share with your child why you chose the name you did for him or her and what it means to you.

