

Editor's Comments on "Nursery School" "Preschool" and "Child Care Center"

A *Child Care Center* is a facility for the care of children when their parents are not able to care for them.

A *Preschool* is a broad term for early childhood programs, including Child Care Centers, before Kindergarten. In the Child-Care field it is a term used to differentiate between Infant-Toddler Care and Three to Five-year-old Programs. Many Family Child Care Homes call themselves "Preschools" because it sounds better.

A *Nursery School* is a school for children between the ages of three and five years, staffed by suitably qualified professionals who encourage and supervise educational play rather than simply providing childcare. We call Los Niños a Nursery School because it is not *pre* anything... we are simply a school for young children. I like the notion that each educational entity is valid at its own developmental and cognitive level and not only as some precursor.

Each of these facilities must be licensed by the State of California Community Care Licensing Division. Our License number is: 410509515.

S.T.E.M. For Girls? Why Ruin A Great Gender?

There is increasing emphasis, even pressure, on schools to provide and girls to take more STEM* classes. I strongly support the availability of all curricula for all students. But I also believe that our schools are losing sight of what an Education really is and are now emphasizing job skills as their Mission.

Girls have always excelled at the Arts and Humanities. Girls communicate, girls are evolved, girls create, girls are sensitive, empathetic, thoughtful and civil. Girls make the best decisions, they know nuance and words and poetry and they are kind. I like girls just the way they are whether they excel in the STEM classes or not. And, of course, they can and they do. Girls make the best Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers, Scientists, Writers, Legislators, et. al.

Boys, bless their hearts, can write code:



Let's not lose sight of what a whole life is and what Education is for and what success can be. Enough of this job talk and corporate manipulation of our schools from those who prefer well trained geeks to an educated democratic society. Education is more about the rich panoply of experiences and opportunities than simply job training.

*Science, Technology, Engineering Math

BOOO!

We will have Halloween parties and we will... "march, march, march in the Halloween Parade"... on Thursday the 30th and Friday the 31st. At the end of each session join us for a great "photo op".

Children may bring their costumes but keep them in their cubbies until the party. You and we will help the children put them on. There will be a special snack sign-up posted.

Playground Safety How Safe Is Too Safe?

At LNNS we have always had a rule about playground safety, "if you can do it, you can do it" Children develop judgment learning their capabilities and limitations when they confront reasonable, age appropriate challenges during their play.

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In the late '90s there was a big national push for "Playground Safety" which was defined by Fort Lawyers. LNNS had a rapid response to all of it and our, well supervised, yard stayed largely the same. We are proud of the design of our play-yard.

Now an article in the NY Times confirms what we knew all along: "too safe playgrounds may stunt emotional development, leaving children with anxieties and fears... children need to encounter risks and overcome fears on the playground", was the conclusion of numerous international studies.

OMG... LNNS right again!

***How Important is Reading With Your Child?**

Recent multinational studies have indicated that children who begin *formal* reading programs in early childhood acquire no measurable reading advantage over those who begin at age six or seven.

However an enormous number of studies have established that when parents read to their children they help to form a lasting positive emotional conditioning to books and the joy of reading... *Emergent Literacy*. Just like at Los Niños!

You Matter!

Recent research concludes: you matter! And that would be *beyond* which parenting/genetic partner you choose. Some of the research involved language acquisition. Second language lessons presented to very young children on video and audiotape were ineffective. But language lessons from animated adults (like us... parents) were quite successful. It appears, "...that children need an '*emotional connection*' with (real) people in order to learn".

Also, in relation to the essential social and emotional development of children, the researchers concluded that... "Parenting style has a big impact on which kind of adult a child will turn out to be." Well, whatdayaknow!! You matter!

Where's The Fire?

Not at Los Niños of course! But to be prepared, several times a year we drill the children to respond to our state-of-the-art Alarm Bell by quickly, but calmly meeting at the climbing structure in the playyard. There we talk about what to do in an emergency and we do a roll call with the attendance list. We reassure the children that we will take care of them...it is important not to frighten young children. If your child tells you about this, now you know what's going on. We want your children to be well prepared for emergencies

***Go Ahead, Read!**

A recent study published in the British Medical Journal recently reaffirmed what we have been saying at LNNS for a long time: "Young children whose parents read aloud to them have better language and literacy skills when they go to school, Children who have been read aloud to are also more likely to develop a love of reading, which can be even more important than the head start in language and literacy."

Why No Fundraisers, Tom (Don't you need the money?)

For the same reason other small businesses don't have fundraisers And I can't stand fundraisers and "jog-a-thons". I run a good business and charge a fair tuition that provides enough revenue for my expenses.

While I find it appalling that our society does not support the cost of excellent education in our public schools, I believe it is also improper when there is gouging in the name of children and education in the private sector... so I don't do it.

Room At LNNS

It has been a great September and we certainly appreciate all of your support. However, we do have space in each of our programs and encourage you to let your friends know that.