



# The Learning Tree

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## MAY CALENDAR

- ✧ **Monday, May 1:** Walk to the library
- ✧ **Wednesday, May 10:** **Mother's Day Luncheon**
- ✧ **Wednesday, May 17:** Music with Miss Julie
- ✧ **Friday, May 26:** End of year picnic and hike at Rocky Gap



## Beautiful Day

See the sun shining in the window  
Time to start a new day  
Can't you hear the song birds singing?  
I've got to sing out loud and say...

It's a beautiful day for running in the sunshine  
A beautiful day that's just begun  
A beautiful day to do what I want to do - ahaaaah  
A beautiful day just to be alive ...  
A beautiful day so glad that I have  
A beautiful day and I want to share it with you.

We have spent many beautiful days together this year and now there are only a few days to go!

April was a great month! We were so glad we awakened our bears early in the month---too pretty of a month for them to miss. We celebrated many parts of spring.

Earth Week was a hit. The children were quite upset when they came to the Learning Tree on April 23 and some "litterbug" had put garbage all over the Learning Tree School. Ms. Nadene was blamed (and rightly so) for being the creator of the "litter". Most annoying to them was the fact that the bike room was littered with paper, plastic and cans. They couldn't ride bikes until we picked up all this trash and put them into the proper recycling cans. We

shared recycling stories and talked about how and why to recycle.

We talked about celebrating Earth Day *every day*.

Music was very loud this month with the introduction of the Orff Instruments. We had rhythm sticks tone bells xylophones, finger cymbals—all at once! We love preschool musicians.



## MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Please come to our little corner of the world as we have lunch at Learning Tree with our favorite Mom in the whole wide world – you! Not much left to say except the children are getting ready and we are all excited! Hope you can make it. There is a new list (can you believe it!) for the helpers. We really need some help. Don't forget to check the list of supplies that we need and when we need them. There was a space for everyone to sign up to bring something. We are asking you to bring these items in May *instead of your May juice* contribution. We may need help serving on both days, and don't forget the cost is only \$10.00 to come for a very sweet adventure. Any questions? Just ask Nadene or your child's teacher.



*Registration is open,  
so spread the word*

Registration is going very well. We are filling up quickly. If you know of someone looking for their child's first school experience, please have them contact either Nadene at 301-268-5811 or call the church at 301-777-3700 to schedule a tour!



### **GOODBYE TO LEARNING TREE**

As I turn the calendar page to May, I sadly realize that our time together is quickly coming to a close. My thoughts return to many warm memories of our past 9 months together—the start of the school year with old and new friendships. At the beginning of the year I promised a lot of bad poetry and I think I followed through. Here is my last one—

*This contains some thoughts from all your friends at Learning Tree. We hope it shares a bit about how we feel and what you mean to us:*

#### **WE REMEMBER...**

Sticky fingers, freckled noses  
Head, shoulders, knees, and toeses  
Shapes and colors — A B C's  
Taking turns and 1-2-3's  
Goodbye kisses hugs and giggles  
Circle time and bits of wiggles  
Colored play dough and dress up clothes  
Learning how an oak tree grows

Making friends and all a-twitter  
Pounds and pounds of colored glitter!  
Carving pumpkins and leaves that fall  
Halloween costumes worn by all  
Turkey calls, then magic elves who sat upon our classroom shelves.  
Suzie Snowflake dancing thru,  
Mrs. Claus and Santa too.  
Pajama parties and a sleeping bear  
Teddy bear picnic fun to share  
Pancakes, green eggs and ham for our tummy. Fun to cook and oh, so yummy.  
Firefighters, police offices, dancers too  
Musicians and the Easter Bunny hopping through.  
Together a year to make a friend  
We thought this time would never end  
Like a butterfly time has flown  
They have learned and they have grown  
Tiny chairs give way to desks  
Book reports and spelling tests.  
Time to take off and spread those wings  
Soar to new height and learn new things.  
Just remember as you do  
Learning Tree's very proud of you.

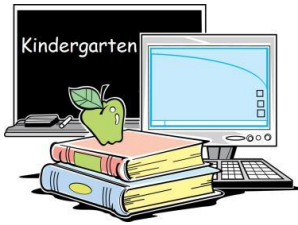
So it is with love and happy memories  
We say goodbye dear friends  
Remember that our Learning Tree bond  
Is one that never ends!  
We love you!

We sadly realize that your children will not always remember us specifically, but hopefully will remember the experience.

It is time to say our good-byes to some of you for just the summer, but to others who are moving on to kindergarten or other places—farewell and best wishes! We will miss you. We will miss seeing moms, dads, grandmothers, grandfathers, even babysitters whom we've gotten to know walking through our halls this past year (or years). But most of all, we will miss your children. We'll miss their stories, enthusiasm and

uniqueness! Thank you for letting us share this wonderful time with you and your children. We hope we have succeeded in giving them a great start toward independence, academic readiness and a love of school.

We give you back your child—not exactly the same child you entrusted to our care last fall. We give him/her back to you pounds heavier, inches taller, months wiser, more responsible and more mature than she/he was back then (we hope!). Although he/she may have attained this in spite of us, it has been our happy privilege to watch their personality unfold day by day and marvel at each new achievement, each new success, and each new expansion of self. We give him/her back to you reluctantly. Because we have spent a year together in the classroom we have grown close, have become part of each other and shall retain part of each other. We have lived, loved, laughed, played, learned and enriched our lives together this year. We wish we could go on together, but we must give him/her back. Separation is central to a child's experience, and it is also a process which continues through adulthood. At the beginning of the year, our task was to help the children separate from home. Now it is time for us to separate from each other. We are very proud of the way the children have adjusted and learned to be part of school. It is also a time for us to separate from you, the parents, but we will always have a bond—we both knew your children at a very special time in their life and in yours! Remember too, that we will always be interested in your child and his/her destiny—wherever they go, whatever they do and whatever they become. There is a line in a song from the musical *Wicked* that expresses how we feel about you and your child: *You have left your handprint on our heart*. Please share with us your joys and sorrows. We do now and will always care.



**Our Annual response to:  
KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

Several kindergarten teachers were questioned about what they thought was the most important requirement for children entering kindergarten, they all had the same response—*independence*.

Small changes can be very significant to a young child, especially if it comes to a surprise, therefore we hope we have given your child many activities to foster independence and change, but you might want to continue to offer more experiences over the summer. Help them to learn their first and last names, address and a phone number. They should be able to put on their own hats, mittens, coats and boots, use fat crayons and pencils (color with them a lot!)

Beginning sound recognition is also important. If they are writing their name, be sure that they use lower case letters, not all capital letters. Give them experience in following 1 and 2 step directions. Knowing basic shapes and colors, sequencing, directional concepts (up, down, etc.) and numbers (1-20) is important and we have played with these concepts this entire time at Learning Tree. Further experience with scissors and cutting is important.

Children also need to feel comfortable with the name of their new school (and the teacher's name, too). Frequent trips past the new school can be helpful. As the school time approaches, talk about school as a positive experience. Discuss what it was like coming to the Learning Tree. Explain that there will be differences but they will soon learn the routines and they will like it, too! Read stories to them about school and children having fun at school. Most importantly, do not show any anxiety or hesitation on the big day. Be excited, kiss them goodbye and may the entire family

share in the knowledge that they are starting a new and wondrous adventure! Make the children feel that kindergarten is great fun and somewhere they will be comfortable and make many new friends. Also, even throughout kindergarten and elementary school please don't stop reading to your child. They never get too old, and what a wondrous time to spend together.

The next few weeks we will be talking with our 4-yr-olds about what it will be like to go to kindergarten and doing lots of remembering!

**SUMMER DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- ❖ End of July: Letter announcing the schedule for the start of school
- ❖ August 30: Parent Conferences
- ❖ September 5: First Day of School



**Did You Know?**

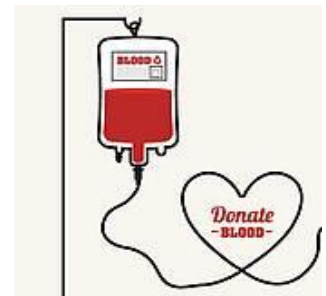
**Some simple rules to keep your children safe on their bikes are:**

1. A helmet is a must. Ask any nurse in any Emergency Room and you'll find out why.
2. If you've got a child who daydreams, wear a whistle around your neck when you go on a bike ride together. If you see him or her being unsafe, you can blow the whistle. This is much more effective than trying to yell.
3. Look for bike paths in the woods. These allow your child to ride freely without the hazards of traffic. Pack a picnic lunch and make a day of it.



**Practice Your ABC's this summer and the rest of your life**

- Act silly
- Believe in Magic
- Create adventures
- Daydream every chance you get
- Enjoy life as much as possible
- Find time for fun
- Goof off
- Hang upside down from trees
- Imagine...
- Join clubs
- Keep it simple
- Love all creatures
- Make time for friends
- Nap when you can
- open you mind to new ideas!!!
- Play when you feel like it
- Question the answers
- Run with the wind
- Sing favorite songs
- Take days off
- Uncover your talents
- Venture out
- Walk on the wild side
- X-pect the best
- Yield to the moment
- Zzzz peacefully



First Presbyterian Church hosts an American Red Cross Blood Drive. The drives are scheduled intermittently in the Fellowship Hall (better known as the Bike Room). Please consider donating to a worthy and needy cause. It gives you a chance to show your child a



way to give of yourself for others in need. You can get more information and dates from the church Administrative Assistant, Brittany by calling 301-777-3700.



### END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The 4-year-old class will celebrate (?) leaving Learning Tree!

We are inviting all of our students to come to **an end of year celebration on Friday, May 26 at 10:30 am** We will meet you at the Rocky Gap State Park camp ground area. We will go on a beaver hike. At **11:30** we will get together and a packed lunch with our special friends. The teachers will have a gift for all of our graduating students.

Please bring a picnic lunch to share with your family.

Anyone can come: grandmas, grandpas, any special friends are welcome. We will send out a more detailed note mid-month.



### Miss Angela's Class

It doesn't seem that long ago your little ones were taking that step of independence; even if they were

crying as you left. The children have grown in many ways. Thank you for sharing them during this important year of their lives. We have come to know and love them!

As the year draws to a close, we will be learning about Spring changes, flowers blooming, and insects emerging. We will hopefully watch butterflies emerge from their chrysalises! The children will be peeking ahead to summertime fun as well as emphasizing summertime safety. It's time to play some games to review all our colors and shapes.

Mother's Day luncheon is nearly here, and your children are excited about having you come and see all the little surprises they are making for you. Please read our bulletin board notes and the rest of the newsletter for things we still need for your luncheon.

You are all invited to our end of year picnic at Rocky Gap on May 26. It is always a fun way to see all the children and families and celebrate with our 4's as they graduate!

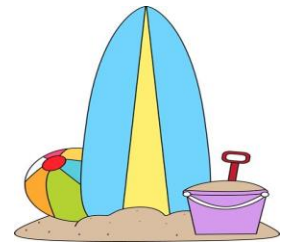
Now that we will hopefully going outside more, please remember to send your children in appropriate play clothes and shoes. The playground mulch is uncomfortable inside sandals; well fitted sneakers or flats are better suited. You might want to peek into the backpacks to ensure that the extra clothes are compatible with the changing weather. Applying sunscreen before the school day should provide protection for the limited time they will be on the playground.

If your child has not had their birthday celebration yet, please, speak to me so we can plan a day for them. Thank you for sharing your children's birthdays with us this year.

Whether your child is going to return to the Learning Tree, or whether they are attending another school next year, we hope your little ones and whole family carries the learning and memories of this year with you. Please, keep in touch and have a safe, enjoyable summer!

Love,

Miss Angela and Miss Cathy



### Miss Tesha's Class

It's May, believe-or-not! The children have been such a joy to work with this year. Being a small part of their world and witnessing their growth has been such a privilege. They formed friendships with classmates and formed bonds with teachers. Those positive relationships are such a great building block for their future school experiences.

We were so busy in April! We celebrated spring, did lots of fun activities, got outside and even enjoyed a picnic or two outside! Thank you so much for sending your little one in play clothes and safe shoes. We will get dirty and play hard outdoors. We are so thankful for the warmer weather.

Miss Julie came to sing and dance with us. Miss Stacy read us some great books about spring at the library. Miss Carolyn came and talked to us about birds and how they make their homes! We even welcomed some caterpillars into our classroom and are excited to watch their transformation into butterflies!

In May, we are looking forward to the Mother's Day luncheon and showing you all the surprises we have been working on. The luncheon is always a favorite event where the child gets to spoil mom.

As the school year comes to an end, we can't thank you enough for trusting us with your children. We have had a great year filled with learning, fun and, most of all, love. Your children will always hold a special place in our hearts! We hope you all can join us at Rocky Gap on our last day May 26th

Love,

Miss Tesha and Miss Melinda



child grow (mind and bodies) and thrive in our classroom, make new friends, and truly enjoy their pre-school experience at Learning Tree.

Love,  
Miss Kelsey and Miss Tami

### **Miss Kelsey's Class**

As April winds down, we're wrapping up a lot of exciting Spring activities. April and May are the busiest time of the year for our soon to be graduates. We're busy learning a lot of hands on Science - the importance of taking care of Mother Earth, the parts of an insect, and how the seasons change around us. Lots of information about bugs and we will soon have our own "class pets." We've been busy preparing surprises for the most important women we know, as well as finishing up our end of the year surprises. Also, a reminder, we will be going outside as much as possible. Please send your little one in play clothes and shoes.

Next month will be focused on Kindergarten readiness, but the main emphasis will be on smooth transitions and making the most of being a 4 (mostly 5) year old. We will have a visitor to talk about good touches and bad touches, we will be working on our "emergency numbers" and summer safety, as well as reviewing all our shapes, colors, and numbers from throughout the year. Our Mother's Day lunch will take place, and we will get to celebrate the most special women in each of our lives. We've been working hard to make a very special specific surprise for mom that she can hopefully keep forever!

I can't believe it has come and gone, but our time at Learning Tree is slowly dwindling down. What better way to celebrate than a party! May 26th will be the official day for our party at Rocky Gap, and there will be details and information coming soon!

We can't thank you enough for making this year a good one! We've enjoying watching each and every

