

# PARENTS' POST

E.L.P. of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

March 2019

## From the Director

March often begins with many of us eagerly anticipating the coming spring weather and activities. After school and weekend sporting events and practices are in full swing in many families, especially if there are older children in the house. Spring Break and Easter are just around the corner too! This month is fun and full of opportunity to do many things we love to do outside with friends and family! At ELP, we will be teaching the promise that "God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). As we come and go to school, travel over the break, or just head to the parks, it is comforting to know that He is right there beside us. It is a simple verse to teach children at a young age, yet very easy to forget as adults. God doesn't just meet us at church on Sunday mornings, we have access to Him all the time!

Cindy

### LOST AND FOUND



**Last call:** If you are missing a sippy cup, hat, or jacket, please come take a peek this week in the office.

Items will be donated soon!

## Registration for 2019-20

ELP Registration is now complete. You will receive your registration confirmation in your child's backpack the last week in March. Please return the green admission form and May 2020 tuition into the office by May 17, 2018. A reminder phone call will be made in late May for all missing registrations or payments.

Unpaid accounts will result in being moved to the waitlist. Thank you!



**Has your child turned 4 this school year?**  
**If so, please come by the office and update your immunizations records.**

## On your Mark, Get Set, Go! ELP Road Rally!

Children need to bring their bike, trike, or favorite riding toy. We will rope off part of the parking lot for a great time! Don't forget your helmets!  
(Please label riding toys and helmets)

### Tuesday, March 26

10:15 Cardinals  
10:45 Flamingos  
11:15 Owls & Bluebirds

### Wednesday March 27

9:15 Older Ducks  
9:45 Older Robins  
11:15 Owls & Bluebirds  
12:15 PM Penguins/All Ears  
12:45 Toucans

### Thursday, March 28

9:15 Young Robins  
9:45 Young Ducks  
10:15 AM Penguins  
11:15 Owls, Bluebirds, & All Ears



## Mark Your Calendar

**March 11-15 Spring Break**

**March 19, 20, & 22 Motor Movement**

**March 26-28 Road Rally**



## "What Did You Do At School Today?"

How many of us pick up our child at school each day and ask him/her "What did you do at school today?" only to get an answer like "Nothing" or "I just played." Well, Sheri Fiedler, a former 3 year old Duck teacher, was given some very useful advice that was successful in getting her son to share his school day with her. She said that when your child comes home or gets in the car each day, start the conversation by saying "Listen to what I did today." Then list five things you did while he was at school. They can be as mundane as folding the clothes but it gives the child an example and an open door or share his day. Then ask him, "What did you do today?" Sheri and her friends have said that they have GREAT success with this approach. TRY IT!!! Let us know how it works for you.

## Words of Wisdom

from our chapel teacher

Spring break is just a couple weeks away and it's one of my favorite times of the year to take a trip. I have one big rule when traveling. If the suitcase doesn't have wheels, it doesn't go with me. It doesn't make the cut. My own kids don't appreciate this attitude because they never knew the neck, shoulder, and arm pain of toting around heavy bags. But I do. Living through those experiences helped me become wiser. Actually, it wasn't just living through pain that made me a more savvy traveler, it took a good amount of reflection, too and figuring out if there was a better way.

But, all the reflection and wisdom in the world can't keep us from collecting baggage as we go through our lives. And that kind of baggage doesn't come with wheels, either. Nope, if we're going to carry baggage from our past with us into our present and our future, we've got to lug that weight around all on our own steam. The longer we live, the heavier it becomes. Have you ever seen someone who looks like they've got the weight of the world on their shoulders...shoulders hunched, head pointed down, saggy face?

The good news is that God says we don't have to carry our own bags -- our anxieties, fears, worries, guilt, disappointments. He says we can lay down those heavy burdens at Jesus's feet, allowing Him to renew our weary spirits with comfort and guidance. How do we do that? It's easy. All we have to do is ask with a sincere heart, listen to what the Lord is telling us in response, and follow Him. Our Father's arms are strong enough to carry all of our bags, plus us too if we're too weak to walk on our own.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

So, if you're planning a getaway with your family in the next couple of weeks, take my advice, "If it doesn't have wheels, leave it at home," and if it's a piece of baggage clinging to your heart, leave it with Jesus.

God bless!

Melinda



## Toast & Taste 2019

### CHEARS TO ALL EARS!

### PLEASE JOIN US APRIL 26TH

The Woodlands Country Club, Palmer Course  
6:30 p.m. Doors Open • 7:15 p.m. Dinner Served

Please visit <https://allearscenter.org/toast-taste-2019> for ticket information.  
If unable to attend, please help us teach deaf children to talk by donating today.

## "Celebrating 5 Years of Sound"

### DRESS IN CELEBRATION CHIC!

You can even wear denim ;)

ALL EARS! Listening & Language Center is the only preschool and Auditory Verbal Center in Montgomery County where children who have hearing loss learn listening, spoken language and literacy skills, without financial burden to their families. Proudly, ALL EARS! is a mission supported by The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church.



## Save The Date!



WCPC Rummage Sale is Saturday, April 6th from 7AM-Noon.

From March 31-April 5 you can donate items to be sold. All Money raised will be used for summer camp scholarships.

So start your spring cleaning and get rid of those items you no longer want. Thank you!

## SWING TODAY!!!



Today, turn off the TV and put away screen devices. Your child is going to work! Yes, work! Play is a child's work!

Get out of the house and find a swing set. It can be a tire swing or a set of single swings. Just SWING!

Do you remember swinging as a child? I do! I loved it! I would day dream, find shapes in the clouds, sing, count. It was calming, centering and I remember having the feeling that I could do anything. It was hard to be sad on a swing.

You are never too old to reap the benefits of swinging. If you have a school age child that needs to use up a little energy after school, before having to focus on homework, find a swing!

Do you want to know what happens when your child swings? A lot more than just idling away time. Check this out! Swinging helps develop your brain! Yes! The back and forth motion of swinging actually stimulates the cerebral cortex, part of the brain that helps us FOCUS! I'm getting back on that swing!

It builds pathways in the brain of memories, which you know I am all about that!

If you are counting or reciting nursery rhymes, etc. it is building their memorization skills.

Swinging develops your child's balance, and strengthens core muscles. Again, I better find a swing!

Swinging with a partner develops social interaction and development as they talk, dream and laugh together.

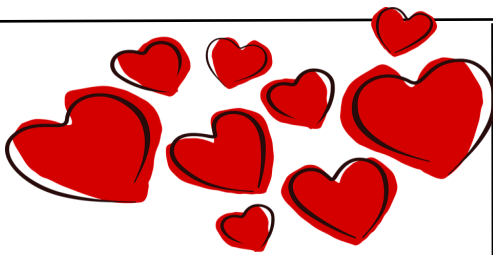
It promotes problem solving as they try to swing higher and higher.

Of course, it develops gross motor skills with climbing on the swing, pumping and climbing or jumping off. Sounds easy? Try looking at it through their eyes with their little bodies.

Swinging develops the muscles that children need to write and paint, to play ball, jump rope, and even shake hands as an adult. These are fine motor skills and they will be developing them during their life time.

When your children are old enough to swing themselves, let them be creative! Encourage them to swing back and forth, twist and untwist, side to side. Pathways in their brain are being built and connected! Balance, problem solving, special awareness, strengthening their core, gross and fine motor skills are all being developed. Most importantly, they are getting a good dose of LAUGHTER!!!

PLAY and MAKE MEMORIES!



### Adorable Quotes!

(from Adorable Children)

**Ms. Nikki:** (Toucan teacher)

"What are some Valentine Words?"

**Liam:** (age 5) "You're nice, be mine, I love you, *text me!*"

**Ms. Candace** (Bluebird teacher)

"What does a horse say?"

**Farrah** (age 2) "*YeeHaw!*"

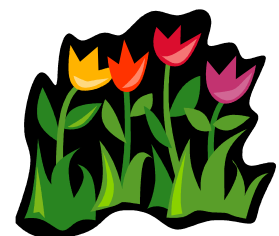
## A FIRM FOUNDATION

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding.

There are main elements that go into building a firm foundation for a child's future. One of the most important is books: Bible storybooks, books that teach helping and sharing, books of prayer, just-for-fun books, and most important, the Good of Life, the Bible. There are so many books for children that one needs to be selective: shop around.

For preschool children, choose those with simple, clear pictures that are true to the Bible and show nothing which may have to be unlearned later. You should also read to your child directly from the Bible. Choose simple stories and verses with the child's understanding.



### Use "Time-Out Wisely"

A Purdue University expert on parenting says the use of "time-out" may be an effective way to control behavior in the short-term, but it will not equip children to manage their own behavior, as they grow older.

"I've heard a lot of pediatricians recommend this form of discipline almost like a prescription," says Judith Myers-Walls, an associate professor of developmental studies and Extension specialist in human development. "The recommendation is one minute of "time-out" per year of the child's age and per infraction. But it's not that simple, and it shouldn't be automatic."

Myers-Walls says discipline is ideally about teaching, and parents must remember that there is not a single teaching method that will always work in every situation with every child. She says, the "time-out" method can be effective if a child is losing control, but it should not be used as a form of punishment.

"If a child's behavior becomes unmanageable and inappropriate for a certain situation, it can be helpful to remove him or her from that situation and give the child private time and space to settle down and regain some control," Myers-Walls explains. "Whether or not that will happen depends on the temperament of the child. If the youngster will not stay in his bedroom, for instance, and the parent ends up having to stand outside the door to keep it closed, it becomes a struggle of wills and the child isn't learning anything about how to manage anger."

While Myers-Walls readily admits that there isn't always a lot of room to negotiate with a 2 year old, she says it's still important that any form of discipline be constructive.

"It should teach the child something about what is reasonable behavior and what is not, and not be just a demonstration of power on the part of the parent," she explains. "It's that understanding of what is reasonable and expected that will help the child get along in the larger communities of school and the workplace as he or she gets older."

### Child Safety at Dismissal

The hallway at ELP can get crowded, especially at noon due to AM and PM dismissal and arrival overlaps.

If you are not using carline, we ask that you please plan to pick up your child promptly at 11:55.

If you arrive on foot later than 11:55, please pick up your child under the awning next to car line.

It is very important that we have a less congested hallway so that children exiting and entering with their teachers are not mixed into the wrong classes. It can be confusing to them.

Once 11:55 passes, please meet your child under the awning. Please do not take your child out of line or from a class in route. Teachers must sign out each child and cannot do so safely while walking and monitoring their group. Thank you!!!



**"This is the BEST time!  
I LOVE Devotions!"**

-From Collin in the Toucans

It's simple and opens up all kinds of meaningful conversations! Try it at home too! Purchase a children's daily devotional book and keep it on the kitchen table!

### ELP accepts "Automatic Bill Pay"

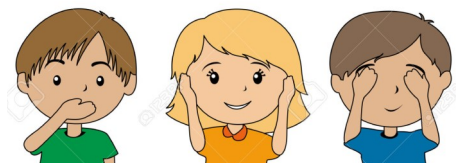
(From Your Bank)

You don't like writing monthly checks? Just talk with your bank and ask them for details how to auto pay tuition to each



your tuition  
ELP  
month

**March Bible  
Verse:  
"God is with**



**Caution!**  
**Be careful little eyes  
what you see...**

Young children are very affected in negatives ways by violent video games and You Tube videos. Set safe controls and watch carefully!

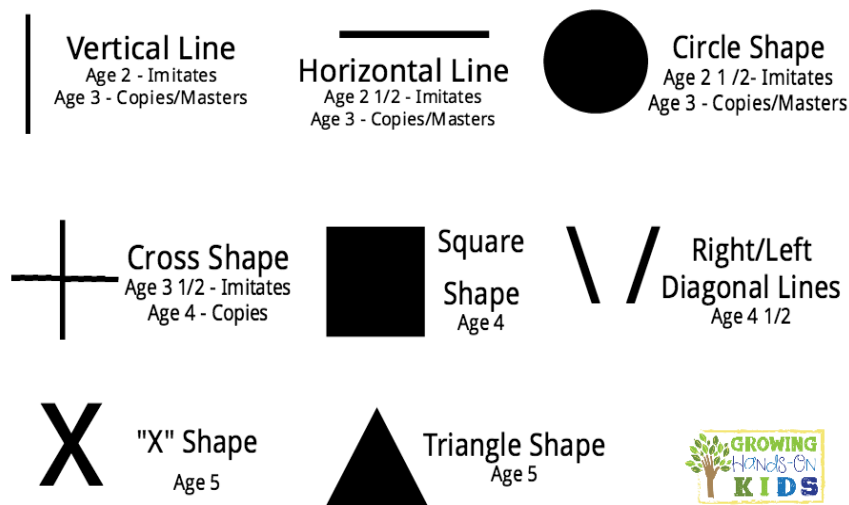




## What does “Pre-writing” Development look like in Preschool Years?

It is common to make the mistake of believing that learning to write must include a writing utensil like a pencil. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Handwriting skills actually begin from birth. In order to have successful handwriting skills you need a strong core, shoulder and arm stability, fine motor skills, visual motor/perceptual skills and executive function skills. There are so many fun hands on ways to developmentally encourage and strengthen little hands for writing in the future. I cannot wait to share ideas with you!

### PRE-WRITING LINE DEVELOPMENT FOR KIDS



Pre Writing Lines are lines that toddlers and preschoolers learn in a developmental sequence that helps them to form letters later on for handwriting.

These can be “Practiced” in so many fun, sensory filled ways! Here a just a few you can do at home!

1. Use a paintbrush in a sand tray
2. Use fingers in shaving cream
3. Peel stickers and trace the Prewriting Lines
4. Use sticks to make shapes and even letter
5. Use fine motor tweezers to move pom poms to prewriting shapes
6. Use corn meal in a tray and trace shapes with fingers
7. Use bath crayons, this gets children crossing the midline
8. Use playdough to form Prewriting Lines
9. Squeeze glitter glue onto different written lines, curvy, straight, crossed, etc. What is more fun than glitter glue? (sshh, don't tell them it's really all about strengthening those little hand and finger muscles!)
10. Pipe cleaners made into prewriting shapes, now you can make curvy lines too!

Growing Hands On Kids  
(check out this site, it's great)

## Stages Of Written Development



### Stage 1: *Random Scribbling*

Children make marks on paper randomly with little muscular control (2's & 3's)

### Stage 2: *Controlled Scribbling*

Children “write” across the paper in linear fashion, repeating patterns over again; increased muscle control (3's)

### Stage 3: *Letter Like Forms*

Children make mock letters. These are written lines that have letter characteristics, but are misshapen and random. Pre-tend writing, but has a purpose (3 & 4)

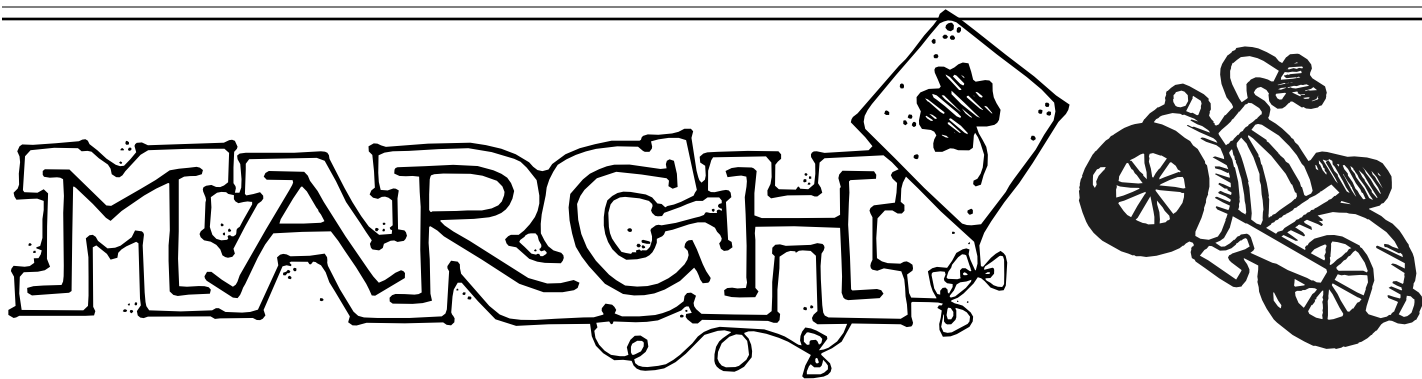
### Stage 5: *Inventive Spelling*

Children make the transition from letter forms to inventive spelling. Requires organization of letters and words. Groups of letters form words, many letters will be consonants. Understand that letters relate to sounds. They copy environmental print. (4's & 5's)

### Stage 6: *Standard Spelling*

Most of the words the children use are written correctly, some punctuation. They organize words in lines with spaces, moving left to right, top to bottom (5-7)

*The next time you see your child in the classroom or on the playground exploring, creating, or playing with clothespins, tweezers, tongs, scoops, brushes, droppers, bottles, tiny crayons, straws, sticks, pom poms, or beads, (just to name a few), you'll recognize the purpose of these fun activities!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SPRING BREAK – NO ELP						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	
Road Rally						
		10:15 Cardinals 10:45 Flamingos 11:15 Owl & BB	9:15 Ducks 9:45 Robins 11:15 O/BB 12:15 Pen/AE 12:45 Toucans	9:15 Robins 9:45 Ducks 10:15 AM Peng 11:15 Owl/BB		