

Sonshine Preschool

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Hello-

Where has the school year gone? How is it the month of May *already*?! Hats off to our outstanding Sonshine Preschool staff, they REALLY, TRULY are the VERY BEST! I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of you wonderful parents for your help in making this a memorable year. Your children, each one of them, are terrific! I truly believe in this Christian ministry and have tried to blend the past 40 years of Sonshine with fresh, new ideas.

We will be ending our 2024-2025 school year with two less staff members. Ms. Madi graduated from NAU with a degree in Elementary Education this past March and married her fiancé, Sam, in early April. Sam is a firefighter in the Air Force who recently completed a year long tour in Honduras and has now been assigned to Germany. We are both happy and sad to see Madi move so far away. Madi started working for SPS when she was 16 years old. In that time frame she filled many positions for us in the classrooms including cleaning the classrooms. All while going to school and student teaching at the same time. Mrs. Montes found her work to be invaluable. She will be missed by everyone, children included! Heartfelt Congratulations to Madi and Sam on their wedding nuptials. They can expect some of us (her mom, Amanda for sure) to visit during their time in Germany.

It is also bittersweet to say goodbye to Miss Cheryl of the famed Cheryl's She Shed! Cheryl is retiring from Sonshine Preschool on August the 6th. Cheryl will have worked here at Sonshine for the past 8 years. This is not her first retirement. She spent her adult career as a dental hygienist. I give her due credit for the beautiful and clean grounds you see every day. She also does so many other duties here at Sonshine that go unseen such as ordering and putting away janitorial and paper supplies as well as physically purchasing them. Blowing leaves and debris from the campus including both playgrounds. Washing sheets and towels, folding and distributing them to the classrooms. She keeps all the classrooms stocked with necessities



Upcoming Events

Wednesday May 21st

8:45AM

Promotion for Pre-K students going to Kinder

Thursday May 22nd

Last Day of School **closing at 3:00pm**



such as tp, paper towels, cleaning supplies, tissues, Clorox wipes, baby wipes etc. Washing doors and windows. Arriving very early and unlocking the gates, setting up the cones and opening the office and classrooms. Supervising landscapers, making certain our trash gets picked up as scheduled. She has formed a good relationship with the ground staff at Sahuaro High School next door. My deepest gratitude is her work to coordinate, decorate and ensure all our big yearly events go smoothly and without a hitch. She just recently was responsible for everything you saw at our carnival! I have some big shoes to fill once she is gone. Quite frankly I'm not sure how I'm going to do it! Cheryl, we love you and if retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be you can have your position back in a New York minute! Thankfully we have a few more months with her.

From our family to yours - have a safe, terrific, fun-filled summer, and to some of you- we will see you through the summer- and again when school resumes August 4th!

Mrs. Castillo

Sonshine Pre-K Promotion 2025!

We are excited for our upcoming Pre-K promotion! This special event will take place on **Wednesday, May 21st at 9 AM** in the church sanctuary. **Promoting Pre-K children will need to be in their classroom no later than 8:45 AM.** The sanctuary will be open at 8:30 AM for you to enter through the Fellowship Hall. There will be signs to lead the way. Seating will be limited. Congratulations to the Butterflies!!

Summer Program

Our Summer program begins Monday, June 2nd. The summer program runs for 7 weeks with closures on Thursday June 19th for Juneteenth and Friday July 4th for Independence Day. Children are registered by the week during the summer. Our themes this year are as follows:

Weeks 1 & 2 – Camp Out with Us & Family Appreciation Week

Weeks 3 & 4 – Our Solar System

Week 5 – Celebrate America

Weeks 6 & 7 – Under the Sea and Shark Week

Sonshine's Carnival!

Thank you to everyone who attended our celebration! We had a blast and hope that you did too. Thanks to everyone who worked at the carnival, and to those of you who donated baked goods, we really appreciate you all!

May Pizza Fun Days

Friday May 9th

Wednesday May 14th



**Please note: Sonshine
Preschool will close
early at 3:00pm on
Thursday May 22nd
(the last day of school)
Please plan accordingly.**

Chapel Time

-God's Spirit Within Me

-How I Can Live in Self
Control?

-How I Can Live in Kindness?

-How I Can Live in Peace?

-How I Can Live in Love?



From our Teacher's Corner...

Busy Bees

The months are just flying by and it's almost summer. The temperatures are getting warmer so please apply sunscreen daily and dress kiddos in cooler clothing. You can also bring sunscreen for us to apply on your child. Be sure to label the bottle. Please be sure that your child has a weather appropriate change of clothes at school. We have a lot of winter weather extra clothes that need to be switched out for the warmer weather. This month we will be learning about butterflies, bugs, and talking about our wonderful mothers. We will be creating a special Mother's Day gift for all our moms.

Fireflies

Wow, we can't believe how fast the year has flown by! All the children have grown so much! May will be full, learning about bugs and the life cycle of a butterfly. The children will also be making a very special gift to give their mother on Mother's Day.

If your child is attending our summer sessions, please make sure they have extra clothes (that are appropriate for the summer season), that they wear sunscreen, and have a water bottle daily.

*Reminder: Your child must be COMPLETELY potty-trained before their first day in the Ladybugs classroom. Message us with any questions.

Ladybugs

The school year is coming to a close and we've thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your child. It has been a joy to watch them grow. We have prepared them for the Pre-K Butterfly class, and next year they will be preparing for Kindergarten. It will be here before you know it. Hopefully, we will see some of you at our summer camp.

Warning, Warning, Warning! The month of May is messy and fun! We are studying the life cycle of the butterfly with live caterpillars.

Thank you to all our parents who helped at the carnival. We're wishing everyone a great Summer!

Pre-K Butterflies

Hard to believe the month of May is here! It's amazing how much your children have grown this year. From learning about each other's families, singing at the Christmas program, the Family Pizza Fun Day Lunch, visiting the Reid Park Zoo, creating lots of fun crafts, learning through "play", and enjoying our CARNIVAL, this has been a terrific year! We've been the lucky ones to have watched your children grow and blossom before our eyes this year. Each of them has made progress this year. Their motor

Happy Birthday
to You!

Noah Holsten
Sebastian Hawley
Yadvi Kaushik
Ayda Sweet
Oliver Varas



skills have improved week by week, either by cutting with scissors, writing their names, and playing with sand, water and playdough! They can all speak with kindness to others and express their needs. This is a fantastic group and we've enjoyed each and every minute spent with them. Thanks for sharing your children with us. Parents, you've done a wonderful job in preparing your children for school.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 21st at 8:45am for our Pre- K Promotion!!!

We wish you and your family the very best of everything that life has to offer! Please keep in touch with us! We love to see your children and hear about how they are doing after they've left Sonshine.

The Pre-K Teaching Team

Ms. Montes & Ms. Nilza

A Quick Look at What's Coming Up in the Next Few Months

more detailed information regarding these events will be available as the time gets closer.

❖ **Friday, May 23rd through Friday, May 30th No school for Summer Break**

❖ **Sonshine Preschool Summer Program:**

Refer to registration materials to sign up.

Please remember we close earlier at 4:30pm, during the summer.

Wednesday June 19th: Closed for Juneteenth

Friday July 4th: Closed for Independence Day

Friday, July 18th: Last day of Summer Program

Monday, July 21st through Friday, August 1st: **Please mark your calendarsSonshine Preschool closed.**

Monday, August 4th: First day of 25/26 school year.

PARENT BUSINESS CONNECTION

Would you like to place your business card in our Parent Connection section of our monthly newsletter? We distribute this newsletter to current and new prospective parents. The fee is \$10.00 per month for a business card ad, or \$35.00 for a business card ad for 4 consecutive months. We have limited space. If you would like to advertise in our next newsletter, please see Amanda, or call the office at 885-1045.



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YOUR SPECIAL CHILDREN AND SPECIAL TIME

Special Time may not be the answer to every childhood problem, but it is almost magical the way such a short period of time can make such a huge difference in your child's mood and behavior. The tool is positive undivided attention for a limited amount of time in nondirective play every day. All that is needed is 10 minutes per day in order to be effective and satisfying. The five elements are: positive attention, undivided attention, time-limited play, nondirective play, and consistency. These combine to deliver a powerful message that helps a child feel loved and appreciated. As a result, behavior improves, and your relationship with your child becomes more playful, joyful and loving.

Positive Attention

During the special designated time there will be no teaching, correcting, competition, criticism or reprimands. Instead you will simply play, show your child you are listening, and notice all the appropriate behaviors and actions. The more enthusiasm you show the more encouraged your child will be to continue those appropriate behaviors. For example, "Look at all of those bright colors you're using in your rainbow!" or "You built a ramp for your cars to go down!" as well as an occasional "I'm really enjoying playing with you" and hugs are all forms of positive attention.

Prepare three different activities and allow the child to choose from among those three. Some suggestions for activities that are noncompetitive and have no "right" or "wrong" way of doing them are Lego's, other building toys, Mr. Potato Head, Play Doh, and any art activity, cars and trucks, doll houses, or farm animals.

Undivided attention

During special time, refrain from taking phone calls, going to the bathroom, talking to other family members or anything else that would keep you from giving your complete attention. Your child will quickly learn that during special time, he will have you all to himself. Choose a time of day when undivided attention is most likely possible such as when a spouse is home to take care of the other children, when younger children are in bed, or early in the morning before others in the family are awake.

Time Limited Play

Set a limit on the time for special time and stick to it. It is difficult to sustain the level of positive attention, listening and enthusiasm that is required. It is more effective to have special time consistently every day for a short period of time than to have a long special time once a week. At the end of special time, say, "Special time is over. Now its bath time/story time/snack time." End with a hug, and a positive comment; such as "I sure had fun playing with you!"

Nondirective play

Nondirective play means that the child is in charge of the play and can play with the toys in whatever way he chooses. Avoid asking questions or making suggestions. Follow along with the child and try describing what he is doing, praising him, imitating him, and reflecting what he's saying, and demonstrating enthusiasm. If the play is destructive or unsafe, remove the toy and redirect your child to another toy, if he continues to be destructive, or unsafe remove the toy, say, "Special time is over. Maybe tomorrow you will play more gently with the toys." Then, in a non-angry way, you can transition to bath time or story time.

Consistency

One of the most important aspects of special time is that children quickly learn they can count on it every day. If you only have special time four days a week that's OK, as long as your child knows the pattern. It's important not to use special time as leverage, i.e.: "If you don't behave we won't have special time tonight!"

Special time is based on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy developed by Toni Hembree-Kigin and Cheryl Bodiford McNiel