



OPT Newsletter

The mission of the Organization of Parents and Teachers is to strengthen the parent-teacher connection and assist with the children's overall preparation for success

Young Horizons Child Development Centers Long Beach, CA www.younghorizons.org

OPT News

We hope you are having a great summer filled with fun activities for your whole family. If you need ideas for this summer you can always find the Kidsguide magazine at any of our centers or log on to Kidsguidemagazine.com for activities in Southern California.



We are happy to inform our parents that the 2017-18 school-year for our Preschool program at Central Pacific begins on Wednesday August 9th. We have half-day Preschool openings at Central Pacific center and full-day openings at our other locations. You can always call us at 562.437.8991 or email us at info@younghorizons.org for more information.

During the month of August we will begin recruiting parents to serve on the OPT Board. Offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Site Representative. Sign-up sheets will be available at the sites for parents and teachers to join the OPT Board.




The Organization of Parents and Teachers provides an opportunity for parents to be involved and assist the agency with extracurricular activities, fieldtrips and fundraisers. The board meets once a month at our Kohn Center Library. This is a great way to learn leadership skills while giving back to Young Horizons and contributing to your child's early education. Please recognize that your participation as a parent is vital to your child's development.

We will also be sending out the Parent Workshop Topics Survey. Through this survey you will be able to provide feedback on the types of topics that most interest you. With your suggestions we are then able to provide monthly workshops with presenters, activities and important information to help you succeed in your role as a parent. Please complete your survey and return it to your site supervisor. Take advantage of this wonderful monthly opportunity to learn and grow and get to know the other parents at your child's center.

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Monthly theme: "Community Helpers"

August 2017

Can you spot community helpers when you walk to the market, when you are crossing the street or when you have an emergency?

Community helpers are everywhere and we can also be part of that. Police officers keep us safe, fire fighters put out fires and crossing guards help us stay safe when we are headed to school and need to cross the street.

Your child will be learning about the many helpers they can find in our community. They will get a chance to learn how they can help make someone's life easier with simple daily tasks.

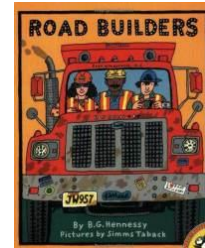
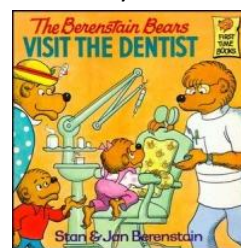
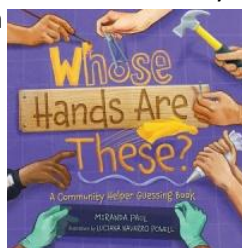
The lesson plans include: identifying community helper's roles, learning how they help us every day and exploring the question: What do you want to be when you grow up? The children will learn about policemen, doctors, firemen and everyone who helps our community stay safe and healthy.

Recommended books for the month of May include the following:

"Whose Hands are These?" by Miranda Paul

"The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist" by Stan and Jan Berenstain

"Road Builders" by B.G. Hennessy



Cooking Experience

August 8th Lunch: Bean and cheese burrito

August 22nd Snack: Hummus and pita bread



What Makes an App Educational?



In a new [article in Psychological Science in the Public Interest](#), the Fred Rogers Center pulled together findings from the “science of learning”—an interdisciplinary field that

combines psychology, linguistics, neurobiology, machine learning, computer science, and other areas—to articulate what can make an app truly educational for children ages 0 to 8.

Through reading more than 200 articles they came up with “pillars” that parents, educators, and media makers can use to evaluate children’s apps:

Active participation. Children should be more than hands-on, they should be minds-on. Look for apps that require deep mental effort and not just quick reaction times or mindless swiping.

Sustained engagement. Well-made educational apps keep users engaged with activities and immediate feedback that are related to learning goals, and do not distract with unnecessary animations, sounds, or games that do not add to children’s understanding of the content.

Meaningful connections. Apps that relate to children’s interests or prior knowledge are particularly well-suited for learning. Be careful of apps that present knowledge in a vacuum. For example, getting children to learn about shapes by showing them flashcards of shapes may be less useful than an app that helps children recognize shapes in the world around them.

Social interaction. Apps that encourage conversation, cooperation, and even competition with other people can deepen learning. Apps can even provide characters who socially respond to children’s input, and that children feel connections to. Keep in mind though that no app is as responsive (or as loving) as a live human partner!

Of course how much a child gets out of an educational app depends on how the child is using that app. Apps that score high on each pillar may be even more effective if they are used in a supportive educational context, for example alongside an adult or in a classroom setting.

<http://www.fredrogerscenter.org/2015/06/what-makes-an-app-educational/>

Dates to Remember

Sept 1: Staff Development Day: Centers Closed
Sept 4: Labor Day: Centers Closed
August 28: OPT Candidate Campaigns
September 21: OPT Elections
October 16: OPT Fall Fundraiser
Nov 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Holiday: Centers Closed
Dec 18- Jan 2: State preschool winter break
Dec 22-26: Christmas Holiday Centers Closed
Jan 1: New Year’s Holiday Centers Closed



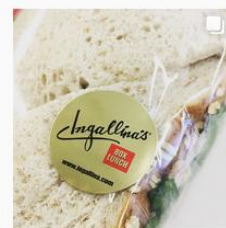
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YH Child Development Centers “Success starts here!” Young Horizons is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality childcare for low-income families in Long Beach www.younghorizons.org



Set aside some time every day to have fun with your child.

Whether it's running through the sprinkler together on a hot afternoon or counting the stars on a blanket in the backyard before bedtime, do at least one thing a day to connect and have fun. Remember, what matters is always how it FEELS, not how it LOOKS. Your child doesn't need a Martha Stewart activity; just a loving connection with you.

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