

# OPT Parent Newsletter



**Young Horizons**  
Child Development Centers  
Long Beach, CA  
[www.younghorizons.org](http://www.younghorizons.org)  
**January 2018**

## OPT News

The OPT would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year! We hope you had a joyful and peaceful holiday season. We are excited for all the upcoming projects which will include fundraisers, fieldtrips, and the OPT Picnic, among others.

Our fairy tales theme for the month of December was a success at all the centers. The children had fun creating props and performing the stories. The parents that attended enjoyed the performances very much. We would like to thank all the teachers for all their hard work putting it all together.

If you have not had a chance to buy your Young Horizons t-shirt, they are available at all the centers, ask your teacher. Buy one and support Young Horizons.

We still need volunteers for our Program Self Evaluations, the ITERS/ECERS. If you are able to participate, please contact me at the number below. The evaluations will take place at all the centers from January 16<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>. We thank you, in advance, for your participation.

Young Horizons would like to invite you to the upcoming Kindergarten Festivals. These festivals offer parents workshops on math, literacy and kindergarten readiness. There will be an activity room for the children to stay while parents attend the workshops. The preschoolers that attend the workshops will receive a free backpack with a book and school supplies. This month's festival will be on January 13<sup>th</sup> at Dooley Elementary from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

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## Monthly theme: "World of Discovery"

*"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity." -Eleanor Roosevelt*

Our children are always eager and excited to learn new things. They are very curious and have all kinds of questions about how things work and why things happen.

January's Theme is "World of Discovery." The children will be discovering colors, textures, tastes, magnets and shapes through various activities throughout the month. They will be mixing primary colors with their hands, decorating a rectangular picture, dancing with colored ribbons, experimenting with sink and float objects, and sorting and comparing different textured blocks. The cooking experience: "Fruit Tasting and Making a Fruit Salad" will give them the opportunity to taste the different flavors of all the different fruits in the salad.

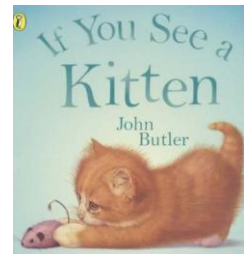
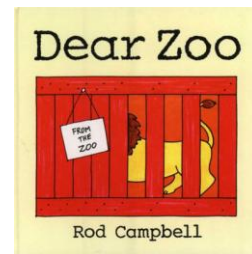
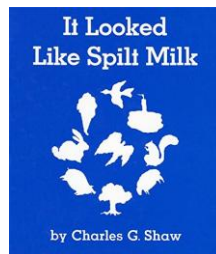
We hope the children enjoy with all the activities their teachers have planned for them and have fun as they discover new things.

## This month we recommend the following books:

"It looked Like Spilt Milk" By: Charles Shaw

"Dear Zoo" By: Rod Campbell

"If You See a Kitten" By: John Butler



## Cooking Experience

January 9<sup>th</sup>:

Fruit Tasting and Making a Fruit Salad



**Remember the centers will be closed on:**

January 15, 2018 –  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



## Before Enrolling Your Child In TK

If your child is turning five between September 2nd and December 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year, you might be thinking about enrolling them in Transitional Kindergarten.

The TK ratio of adults to children can be as high as 25 to 1 teacher and an aide. That computes to a ratio of 1 adult to every 12.5 children. The TK ratio is higher than allowed by State Licensing and is higher than the recommended ratios of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Head Start Association which advocates for a maximum ratio of 10 Children to 1 adult. The ideal ratio as recommended by the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education is 8.5 children per adult.

The TK school day is usually 6.5 hours per day and doesn't address a parent who generally works an 8 hour day plus needs time for commuting. The public school year does not address the short days that most schools have weekly, the long breaks at various times during the school year or the entire summer.

Before you make a decision, think about the following:

- Is your child ready for a formal school experience at age four?
- Will your child be sitting for long periods of time at a desk?
- Will TK serve your needs if you are a working parent?
- What will you do when school is not in session: summers, holiday weeks, early dismissal days?
- Will there be opportunities for your child to learn through play?
- Will there be opportunities for your child to move around and experience activities in small groups and individual activities?
- How many children will there be in the classroom?

In the end, it is your decision to make according to your child's and your family's needs.

<http://www.ccrcca.org/parents/strengthening-families-blog/item/before-enrolling-your-child-in-transitional-kindergarten-read-this-article-from-crc-s-president-dr-michael-olenick>

### CIVIL RIGHTS STATEMENT

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## Fairy Tales Gallery



The children enjoyed creating their props and performing the Fairy Tales Stories!

Excellent job teachers!



Thank you Paramount High School Cheer Squad and Latinos in Action LA for bringing some joy and presents to our children

Next OPT Board Meeting is on January 10th.