



Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

www.younghorizons.org

Summer 2021

“Educate Early”

Safari Day Fun

It's a jungle out there



Every year, we look forward to taking our children on a field trip to explore the world outside of our centers. However, with the given restrictions, we were unable to do so this year. Our resourceful teaching staff had a wonderful solution. If we cannot go to see the animals at a zoo or aquarium, why not bring them to us? Staff planned and prepared a wonderful Safari Day at each center where children were able to explore paper giraffes, monkeys, zebras, alligators, elephants, and tigers. Children created and decorated their own “safari vests” out of paper bags and “binoculars” out of tube roles. And the Organization of Parents and Teachers (OPT) sponsored safari hats. Playgrounds were transformed into the different animal habitats and children walked around learning about each animal they encountered. To end the day from their arduous walk through the safari, children had a special treat of animal crackers and apple juice boxes. Visit our social media pages for pictures and videos. A special thank you to our staff for creating this wonderful experience for our children and to our volunteer parents that helped create the paper animals. Children completely loved it and were very excited to join the safari fun.

Spring Highlights

Activities continue to enhance programs for our children and their families



Week of the Young Child is an annual 1-week event that highlights and brings awareness to the importance of early education and needs of children and families. Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday provided a week of fun for children. They created their own musical instruments, made taco stands, built structures together and painted beautiful artwork to be displayed at our outdoor art gallery on Thursday.



Thank you for the dental kits from our friends @lbhealthdept. We sure missed your visit this year with Leo the Puppet, but better times await! Our children loved their new dental kits which we know will inspire good dental hygiene for years to come.

A big thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and to Staci Loveridge for continued produce donations for our families. Staci coordinates these donations every two weeks to make sure our families have the healthy food they need.



Above, Asst. Site Supervisor, Amber Pimentel, prepares produce bags for parents to pick up.

Executive Director Message



Looking toward the future

As we close our fiscal year and begin a new one, we pause to celebrate success and look forward to new opportunities in the coming year. While there are still many unknowns with the state of the virus and new variants, we will continue our work of making children's lives better and helping families succeed.

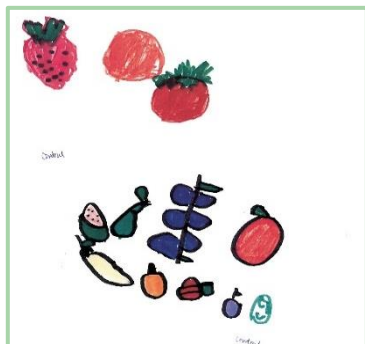
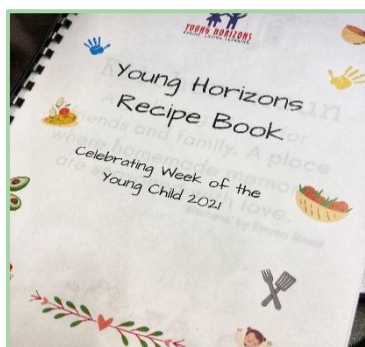
In order to prepare for our coming year, our management team gathered for a retreat in June to plan for the coming year and set goals as a team. John Glaza, of Glaza Consulting, along with Jeff Williams, independent consultant, facilitated the retreat, and guided us in goal setting. A taskforce will be formed to track progress to ensure success. An exciting goal that was identified is expanding one of our centers to include infants and toddlers. A feasibility study will be conducted to assess our ability to make this change.

We are excited to announce two new additions to Young Horizons' Board of Directors: Alejandra Albarran Moses, Ph.D. and Jessica Schumer, M.D. Dr. Albarran Moses is the City's Child Care Coordinator and Dr. Schumer is a pediatrician at The Children's Clinic. They bring valuable expertise to our board, and we are grateful to have them serve on our board.

Sarah
Sarah M. Soriano
Executive Director

Family Recipe Book

Time to get cookin'



Our parent engagement group, the Organization of Parents and Teachers (OPT) was committed to keeping our families engaged as best as possible during the pandemic. One fantastic idea the OPT board and OPT Coordinator, Andrea Carrasco, came up with was to have a Family Recipe Book for families and staff to share their favorite recipes.

We were very pleased by the response. Parents and teachers alike shared their favorite meals and even our kitchen staff contributed to make Young Horizons' first Family Recipe Book. The book was released on Tasty Thursday to coincide with Week of the Young Child.

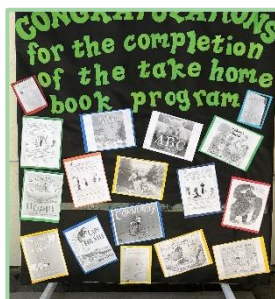
Recipes range from main courses to desserts, snacks, and easy breakfasts. Some delicious traditional international dishes included Chiles Rellenos, Nigerian Jollof Rice and Columbian Arepas.

Artwork was created by our very own children and included favorite fruits, vegetables, and snacks.

If you would like a free copy, please contact info@younghorizons.org.

Take Home Book Program Completed

30-week reading program celebration



This year, 177 families participated in the Take Home Book Program. At the beginning of each week, the teachers would post the selected book and an activity prompt on their center's social media platforms. Every child received a journal and were encouraged to draw or color a response to each story, with family assistance if needed. Every child that participated received two free books at the end of the program. This reading program instills a love of books, introduces vocabulary and fosters sharing and creates a routine of reading books.

New YH Van

Food delivery continues

After fifteen years of daily deliveries, it was time to replace our Young Horizons van. We reached out to Long Beach Youth Advocates to request a donation and they delivered. We are very grateful for their generous sponsorship to purchase a new 2020 Chevy Van for our Food Program.

Every morning the driver delivers breakfast and then returns to deliver lunches and snacks. The van is also used when picking up bulk food purchased from local grocery stores.

We look forward to many years of service with our new van delivering delicious, healthy meals for our children.



Garden Program Extended to our Families

Where dreams blossom



This year we extended a warm invitation to our families by having them sign up to garden with their child at their center. We were so excited to see the enthusiasm and participation. With the ongoing restrictions, parents have not been able to enter our facilities for over a year. Following safety measures and protocols, parents enjoyed this time with their child. We thank the OPT for sponsoring the gardening tools, Home Depot and Walmart for their generous donations of additional supplies, and Holland Brown, of *Ground Education*, who took the time to visit our outdoor area and provide us some great gardening tips and advice along with generously donating a variety of seeds and books.



Graduations

Covid-style send-off for our children

With the ongoing pandemic restrictions, Young Horizons once again made the decision to refrain from holding our yearly graduation celebrations for our preschoolers going to kindergarten. Staff arranged for a distribution of certificates with a themed backdrop. Families stopped by to pick up their preschooler's certificate of completion, snap a photo with their teacher, and receive a small gift and ice cream which was sponsored by the OPT.



Camerata Singers Music Program

Instilling the love of music early

The Camerata Singers partnered with Young Horizons to bring a wonderful music program to our children. They provided a virtual music enrichment program at no cost to the parents. The children learned about pitch, sound, melodies, and musical instruments. The children rehearsed various days throughout the months and presented a beautiful in-person summer concert for parents in late June.

The Camerata Singers included a monthly virtual performance incorporating the concepts the children learned.

Be sure to keep an eye out for our social media posts on these performances.



SAVE THE DATE:

August 11- First day of Preschool
September 16 -Summer Fest Wine & Cheese Fundraiser
September 23 – Long Beach Gives

Center Closures

Centers will close to observe the following holidays and special events:

September 3 – Professional Development Day
September 6 – Labor Day
November 25-26 – Thanksgiving and day after
December 23-24 – Christmas
December 30-31 – New Years



Save the Date: Join us at our summer fundraiser to support Young Horizons' Early Learning and Literacy programs. Live auction and opportunity drawings and more.

www.younghorizons.org/summerfest



Join us on September 23rd for the 3rd city-wide online fundraising event. Click image for more info.
<https://donate.longbeachgives.org/young-horizons>



Young Horizons
 Child Development Centers
 501 Atlantic Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Please email us at info@younghorizons.org if you prefer to connect electronically.

Our mission is to provide quality childcare and preschool programs in a caring, loving and learning environment.

Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

Board of Directors

Founders:

Dr. Gerhard & Irena Kohn

- Alejandra Albarran Moses, PhD
- Axel Dubon
- Kris Gragson
- Maria Gragson
- Frank Gutierrez
- Danita Humphrey
- Abigail Mejia
- Jake Mooney
- Christina Nigrelli
- Jessica Schumer, MD
- Roger Scott, **Chair**

Advisory Board

- Martha Bernadette, MD
- Katie Larson
- Ed Ludloff
- Michael Mais
- Glenn Ray
- Roland Spongberg
- Ed Sudario
- Ron Whittaker



Serving 416 children in five Long Beach locations (pre-COVID-19)

Kohn Center/Main Office

501 Atlantic Ave.

North Pacific Center

2418 Pacific Ave.

Grisham Center

11 A W. 49th St.

Central Pacific Center

1840 Pacific Ave.

Ludloff Center

2650 Pacific Ave.

License #198000638

Young Horizons is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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www.younghorizons.org



PROUD MEMBERS OF:

