



From The Director's Desk January 2017

I hope everyone enjoyed some time off during the holidays and that your celebrations were filled with family, friends and good times. We begin the New Year with preparations for our upcoming child assessments at the end of this month. All children in the Jr. Preschool, Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten will be assessed by the teachers to measure progress in a variety of skills based on our curriculum goals. Since children in the Pre-K and Kindergarten will be progressing to elementary school in the fall, teachers will also conduct individual conferences with parents to share progress information and to set goals for the coming months. If your child is in Preschool or younger age groups, you will be receiving the Developmental Milestone Checklist as your child reaches specific ages. We hope that you find these checklists helpful in determining your child's progress throughout his/her years with us.

I heard so much positive feedback from many of you regarding some of the special events we held in December. Santa's visit was definitely a big hit with the children and many of them are still talking about "the REAL Santa" who came to HRLC. The visit from the wildlife educators also left quite an impression on the children, and I am already planning their next visit. I received impressive feedback from them about how smart and well behaved they found the children at our center to be. They said we were the best school group they have ever encountered- even counting elementary and older groups. I was amazed by the children's understanding of the difficult concepts being discussed which included various types of animal adaptations during the winter. The children were offered the opportunity to pet the albino bull snake and I was surprised that all of them were brave enough to give it a try. We have some awesome kids here at HRLC!

With a snowstorm being forecast for this week, I thought everyone would appreciate one more reminder on the process we use for informing parents of any changes to our operating schedule. Our administrative team confers with the executives of our company the day before a storm is scheduled to move in to review anticipated snow totals and to plan for scenarios which include dangerous driving conditions. As conditions deteriorate, we check with the local school district (Douglas County) to see if they have made any decisions for operations the next day. Generally speaking, if Douglas County closes for the day, we will probably consider the same action. However, we have also decided to open late instead of closing altogether since we don't have the same transportation issues that the district faces. Based on road conditions and the chance of continued snow a decision is made before 6 a.m. and is sent out to our staff and

to parents via 9News television broadcast and their website (9News.com) as well as though our website at www.highlandsranchlearning.com. Please be aware that there is usually a delay of about 10 minutes before 9News posts any closure information from the time we enter it into their system. Decisions to open late or close altogether are taken very seriously and based upon our staff's ability to arrive at work safely. If you try to call the center during a snowstorm event, the phone will automatically go into Night Message mode and you may not reach an actual administrative staff member. If you have any questions about this process, please let me know and stay safe and warm tonight!

For those of you who have children approaching their fifth birthday, the choices for Kindergarten can be overwhelming. In Colorado, a child must turn 5 by October 1st to be enrolled in public school Kindergarten; however, since we are a private program we don't have to adhere to the same cutoff date. We offer enrollment in the Private Kindergarten to children who will be turning 5 as late as the beginning of December. Since we maintain a lower student to teacher ratio (about 10 to 1), children experience a higher level of success because of more individual assistance. Before School and After School care is included in the cost as are meals (breakfast, lunch and two snacks per day). By the end of Kindergarten all children are able to read independently and have become proficient writers as well. I constantly receive compliments from the local schools where our children move onto after Kindergarten since our Kindergarteners are quite advanced in academic expectations. In anticipation of enrollment for the 2017/18 school year in this exceptional program, I have scheduled our **Private Kindergarten Information Night** for Tuesday, January 31st at 5:00 p.m. All parents are invited to attend the meeting during which we will explain the curriculum, routine and expectations of our program. Information packets will be available and you will be able to secure a space for your child after the meeting. Let me know if you would like to arrange a private meeting with me to discuss your child's development and enrollment in this successful program.

In closing I would like to welcome all of you to call, stop by or email me at t.leidenberger@highlandsranchlearning.com if you should have any questions about your child's experiences with us. Stay warm!

Happy New Year,

Teresa

Important dates:

January

23-27- Parent Teacher Conferences

30-New Tuition Rates

31-Kindergarten Information Night at 5:00 p.m.

February

2- Summer Camp enrollment packets available

20-Center is closed for Teacher In-Service Training

