



THE BEACON

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Oct 27

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Anne McCoy

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Calendar events are subject to change. To view our full school calendar visit littlighthouse.org. You can also follow us on social media to be kept up-to-date with events, oppurtunities, and more!





Embrace Today!

I have long felt God encouraging me to live each day to its fullest, to embrace the day right before me with all its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows.

The Lord cares deeply about today, not just the future.

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand. - Psalm 37: 23-24

It is wonderful to watch our sweet Little Light House children embrace the day. They are focused on the here and now and they are engaged in every moment.

Our students have so many difficulties, but do they let this stop them from embracing the day? No! They work through their difficulties by pushing through them. If they can't walk, they learn to use a walker. If they can't eat, they learn to take the spoon to their mouth. If they can't see well, they learn to explore with their hands. If they are experiencing

pain, they push through it to smile with love at their teacher or friend. Our little ones are so amazing. They have so much to teach us about being brave and embracing the moment. Their delight, their joy, their love, their vulnerability, their acceptance that each day is full of challenges to be embraced is inspiring.

Thank you for loving and helping these beautiful children live today brightly and fully.

So like our Little Light House children, hopeful and brave, I pray that you too will embrace the day. I pray that that you will have bright days, full of Life, full of Love, full of Him.

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. - Lam. 3:22-23

Anne McCoy
Little Light House Executive Director

Fun with Food

By Speech Language Pathologist, Clarey Shrum



Students working with LLH Therapists and TU graduate students.

Each year at Little Light House, we have 35+ students who benefit from extra attention at mealtimes due to sensory aversions. These children may be identified as picky eaters or problem feeders and have a very restricted range or variety of foods that they consume regularly. For these children, therapeutic intervention is highly encouraged to help grow and expand their willingness to tolerate, explore and learn about non-preferred foods.

Feeding intervention at the Little Light House is coined “food play groups” and our goal is to advance each child’s willingness

to try new foods in a safe, fun and comfortable environment. Groups focus on stimulating all five senses, with an emphasis on exploring different food textures. As our children engage in sensory food play, the hope is they will begin to develop trust and confidence in exploring their environment. This could lead to many exciting benefits beyond just eating, such as establishing new nerve pathways in the brain and encouraging increased motor development.

The speech-language pathologists at Little Light House plan and lead these groups with help from graduate students at the University of Tulsa. Each group consists of a story about food (i.e. “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”) followed by exploring 5-7 foods associated with the story.



LLH Therapy Team with Volunteers, Interns, and students at camp.

“It is so much fun to watch ours kids’ eyes light up...”

drew star constellations with chalk, made moon rock paintings and learned about the ways our bodies can move through Prayers and Poses! Each of these activities has a specific therapeutic goal, although to our kids, it just seems like stellar fun! It is so much fun to watch ours kids’ eyes light up with each new activity that they get to experience and watch small milestones are miracles happen during this week. Some of our students tried new non-preferred foods, others were brave explorers during sensory play and some got to learn about being a great friend. Throughout each activity, our students were also learning all about the seven days of Creation, God’s creativity and His amazing love for us.

Camp week is an event that our therapy team looks forward to every year. Preparation begins many months before camp as we start brainstorming, dreaming and planning to come up with the perfect theme and activities that we know our students will enjoy. We prayerfully consider every single child and their unique abilities and needs as we create our curriculum. We are able to use funds and materials from generous donors to transform our facility into a rich new learning environment. We are so thankful for those that help us make this happen for our students, including the amazing volunteers and interns that help us carry out our visions. Little Light House Camp week is such a blessing, not only to our students, but to every person who gets to have a hand in the process!

LLH Therapy - Camp Creation

Summer camp is a fun and important rite of passage for most children. Unfortunately, our Little Light House students don’t always have the opportunity to attend these camps. Our Therapy Team saw a need several years ago to bring this experience to our students and make sure they get to share in that joy of childhood! Little Light House summer camp began with Camp Chat, a speech and language based camp led by two of our Speech Language Pathologists, and since then it has evolved into a full transdisciplinary camp experience! Our physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, vision therapists and assistive technology professionals all collaborate together to create a week enriched with sensory experiences, language activities and movement experiences. Camp is fully adapted for every student’s individual needs. It is

our goal and desire to make sure every activity, lesson and experience is fully accessible to all of our students!

This year’s camp was “out of this world “and focused on our bible-based curriculum story, Creation! We transformed the Little Light House gym into outer space by decorating with stars, planets, moon rocks, astronauts and so much more! Our kids traveled to camp on a rocket ship and had so much fun participating in therapy activities and learning about the beautiful world God has created!

Throughout the week, our students participated in space-themed circle times, created a Creation trail mix for snack time, enjoyed sensory tables full of moon sand, glow-in-the-dark stars and water,



Some of the activities at camp include sensory bins and playing with foods

Student Spotlight

Meet Lincoln



Lincoln in the Trexo

Monday, November 7, 2016, at 2:33 pm, our family's life changed forever...

We patiently waited to see if we were adding a little brother or a little sister to our family. After three boys, we were finally giving them a sister! Though, the excitement quickly faded to anxiety, fear, and chaos. Immediately, Lincoln was rushed outside the room to be resuscitated. **She was completely lifeless.** She was rushed to the NICU by the nurses, then put into hypothermia to preserve her brain tissue. Not long after, the NICU doctor came into my delivery room and asked us many questions. From what we could tell, everything should have been normal. So the tests began. Our doctor reiterated numerous times that her situation was dire and there was a high probability she would not survive, but he also ensured us they were doing everything they could for our new daughter.

After a couple of days of extensive tests, her doctor determined that we had experienced a fetal-maternal transfusion, which means that her blood had leaked back into my body. Her blood count was dangerously low, and my blood had a significant presence of fetal cells. This meant she wasn't receiving blood to her brain for an unknown period of time. She was given a full-body blood exchange when she was three days old. This meant her body was drained of the blood she did have, while new blood was pumped into her body simultaneously. The first month of her life was spent in the NICU and was very touch and go, but **she fought so hard, and survived.**

While in the NICU, we were told she would never eat on her own, talk or walk, and that she would live in a vegetative state. Those words rocked our world, but we had faith that **Lincoln would prove them wrong.** I'm not sure if it's one stubborn little girl, one stubborn mom, or a combination of the two, but so far, she has defied all odds and has done everything the doctors said she wouldn't.

While in the NICU, we were told to tour the Little Light House and get on the waitlist. I had no idea at the time what LLH was or how crucial of a role they play in our community for children with special needs. I called, had a tour, and got Lincoln on the waitlist in January of 2017. We spent the next three years in anticipation for the call that Lincoln was off of the waitlist and had a spot in a classroom. Then it happened, we got the call and Lincoln was placed in a classroom. While on the waitlist, we were a part of the pilot program for LLH's new Early Intervention program. Those classes were extremely beneficial in getting to know Little Light House and getting Lincoln acquainted with a classroom. **I'll always be thankful** for that opportunity, and of all of the families waiting to get in, we were chosen for the program.

Lincoln is at Little Light House full time, and I've seen so many changes in her personality and demeanor. Her vocabulary has improved, her physical abilities continue to improve, and she's less shy than she was before attending, albeit she is still timid. **We are incredibly grateful** for the opportunities Little Light House provides for Lincoln. Right now, we are most thankful for her access to Trexo Robotics. It's a robotic attachment to a Rifton Pacer, a gait trainer Lincoln uses for assistance in walking. The Trexo mimics the correct walking pattern for kids who may not have the ability to do that for themselves. It also provides valuable data like how many steps they take in total, how many actions they initiate themselves, how much weight they're bearing through their legs, etc. It is a crucial piece of equipment!

We are so very thankful for Little Light House. There is truly nothing like walking into a place that you know your child is loved on and prayed for, **especially when you have a child that isn't like everybody else.**

- mom, Lauren George

Donate to Mini-Laps 2021

Mini-Laps is our annual celebration of all of the milestones our students have reached throughout the year. Some students take their first steps here. This fundraiser is run by our families, show your support and give today!



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Honorariums

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Jacob Baird
Jo Anne Cronk
Ellie Benazer
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Emma Biersdorfer

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Anthony and Meghan Shaibley
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Leon and Carole Burzynski
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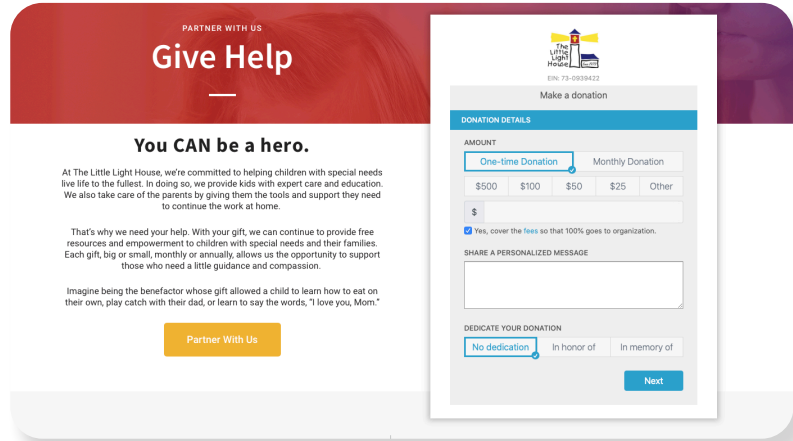
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