

Welcome Tiny Tots Families!

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Welcome to the Tiny Tots family! My name is Michelle Gustafson and I've been working in Child Program Development and Education since 1992. After graduating with a BS degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, I continued my career in Human Development working as a Human Resource Analyst and Early Childhood Interventionist. For 10 years I have Directed Our Time Together for CARD and have been a substitute teacher for Tiny Tots and other CARD programs. In 2012, I received a certificate as a Child and Family Mental Health Specialist through the Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship Program accredited through UC Davis. During the last 3 years, in addition to my responsibilities with CARD, I've worked as a Teacher's Aide for the Chico Unified School District.



This is going to be an exciting and fun first classroom experience for your child. In Tiny Tots, children will have the opportunity to improve current skills, learn new skills, make friends, and have fun. During the toddler years, your child will make huge strides physically, intellectually, and emotionally, whether it's learning to play with friends or identifying letters of the alphabet. My goal is to create a classroom environment that inspires the love of learning through reading, crafts, cooking, and science. The skills children learn in this program will help transition them into a Pre-K program and ultimately, Kindergarten.

As parents and care givers we can reinforce what our children learn in class at home. Reading to your child at home sets them up to succeed as a future reader themselves. Continued letter and sound identification at home and in the community will also help encourage the love of learning. Children learn best when they are regulated and safe. Spending time together reading or talking about what they learn at school will help you both wind-down, relax, and bond.

Following is a sample program schedule.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:15:	Sign In/Free Choice Time/Open Structure Playtime
9:15 - 9:35:	Circle Time/Blue Mat Instruction
9:35 - 10:00:	Table Instruction/Learning Centers/Crafts
10:00 - 10:20:	Outside Free Play/Gym Playtime/Snack Set Up in Classroom
10:20 - 10:45:	Snack Time (Please see schedule in the Classroom to sign up to bring snack)
10:45 - 11:00:	Blue Mat Reading/Songs/Music
11:00:	Goodbye Song/Sticker for Participating/Sign Out

I'm looking forward to a fun and rewarding year getting to know your child in the Tiny Tots Program. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Michelle Gustafson

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