



Learning Circle Preschool
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Dear Parents and Friends of Learning Circle Preschool,

We ask for your generous support for our first Annual Appeal.

Let me tell you a short story.

Midway through Learning Circle's first school year, a boy and a girl were holding hands with their teacher, dancing to Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World". At the end of this long, slow song, the boy exclaimed, "I love this school!" Experiences such as this one stem directly from the school's philosophy, which emphasizes the individual child. They are made possible by the breadth of experience of the teachers and their devotion to the intellectual, social, and cognitive growth of all their students.

In our first year, we have had wonderful community support and have accomplished a great deal. In our initial renovations, we created three beautiful, spacious classrooms plus our welcome room. This past summer we completed a new entrance to the school and renovated our two bathrooms, completing requirements for ADA accessibility. Our chickadee classroom is filled to capacity, with a waiting list. We met or exceeded our goals for enrollment in both the pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. We have developed a close working relationship with Curry College, and have participated in the training of four future teachers. We have joined the area Community Partnership so that we are eligible to accept children who receive financial assistance through the Department of Early Education and Care. Finally, we have begun the self study process to achieve accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Our next goal is to develop our playground space as a nature center and outdoor classroom.

This is a project that will be accomplished in phases. Features of the first phase will include:

- Improving drainage and groundcover in the grassy areas of the playground.
- Creating a larger, deeper sandbox to enhance construction of bridges, canals, and other sand structures.
- Adding an ADA accessible ramp and clarifying safe running patterns.
- Expanding the mulch bed to allow space for two swings.
- Defining outdoor classroom areas for art, music and drama, construction, and science.
- Purchasing key components and storage for these activities.

Donations to our annual fund will help make this playground space a reality.

Your contributions also help us meet other program needs that tuition alone cannot directly support, especially in the areas of Program Enhancement and Enrichment, Financial Assistance, and Staff Support. Descriptions of each of these areas follow:

Program Enhancement and Enrichment

Program enrichment funds allow us to bring community activities and resources directly to the children here at school. Examples include programs like:

- Barn Babies
- Storytellers and puppeteers
- Musical performances
- Visits from museum staff in support of specific curriculum development

Program enhancement funds allow us to purchase curriculum and materials that the regular equipment and supplies budgets may not be able to absorb in any given year. Examples include:

- Funds for specific curriculum development and materials such as math manipulatives, a science library, or multicultural dramatic play props and displays
- Funds to support NAEYC accreditation
- Purchase of musical instruments

Financial Assistance

It is part of the school's mission to do everything possible to ensure wide access to high quality programming for children. To this end, funds supporting financial assistance will help us support both new and returning families so that they may choose the optimal schedule for their children.

Staff Support

Funds earmarked for staff support in any given year assist in meeting the non-salary needs of teachers. Examples include:

- Additional training monies
- Bonuses

Your participation in our annual appeal at whatever level is deeply appreciated. We are hoping for 100% participation among our families and friends. Please consider the special qualities that Learning Circle brings to our community and how your contribution can make a difference! Learning Circle Preschool is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible. Please return the enclosed form with your check in the envelope provided.

Thanks from the Staff and Board of Learning Circle Preschool.

Yours,

Katrina Selawsky,
Director