

NONPROFIT

Spotlighting community connections and benefits

Nonprofit spotlight

TLC Learning Center

Our Mission: Our mission is to provide comprehensive early childhood education and therapeutic services to assist each child in reaching his or her highest potential.

We Serve: TLC serves children in and around Boulder County with fully inclusive infant care, toddler care, pre-school education and a pediatric therapy program. Our early childhood education programs serve children from 8 weeks to 6 years old. Our pediatric therapy program serves children from birth to 12 with physical, occupational and speech therapies. Our programs are deliberately diverse, serving both typical children and children with special needs.

Brief History: TLC Learning Center was originally founded as The Tiny Tim Cerebral Palsy Center in 1956, a school for children with special needs. Tiny Tim was a much needed service in the community, as public schools did not yet provide support for children with special needs in their classrooms. The name shortened to The Tiny Tim Center when it expanded to include children both with special needs and with typical development. Today, children of all abilities, including children with special needs, typically developing children, and identified gifted and talented children learn side by side in a fully inclusive, fun learning environment. Children at TLC build friendships, learn to accept the differences that make each person and child unique, and learn fundamental early skills that include literacy and speech acquisition, foundational math and science skills, critical thinking skills, gross and fine motor development, and positive behavior development. A pediatric therapy clinic was added in 1997 to further improve TLC's ability to holistically address the healthy, positive development in each child. In 2013, the center rebranded as TLC Learning Center to best represent our services to children of all abilities.

Proudest Accomplishment: Our most recent accomplishment has been completing our renovations to open our infants and toddlers program. Research states that 90 percent of brain development takes place before age 5, and we



Courtesy photo

A TLC teacher works in the garden with a preschool student.

hope to deepen our impact in developing children's intellectual capacities and preparing them for success by extending our education programs to begin in infancy. We are also proud that our staff is undergoing Pyramid Plus training, an effective, team-oriented approach to addressing behavior, environmental and social-emotional struggles in the classroom and in therapy sessions by looking at the whole picture of a situation and having a clear, consistent plan to follow. Our proudest accomplishments with children come every day though, as children reach milestones both in their classrooms and pediatric therapies. These milestones can range from learning to read and write their name to learning to walk.

Greatest Need: TLC is proud to announce that in 2015, 30 preschool children will graduate from our program. While our infant and toddler classrooms are filling quickly, 30 children leaving for kindergarten will leave a big void in our preschool program. Our greatest need right now is to spread the word that we are actively enrolling children to ensure our classrooms remain dynamic, full and fun. In addition to our enrollment drive, we continue to rely on scholarship dona-

tions for both our classrooms and our pediatric therapy programs to help children from low-income backgrounds participate in our programs. Children who wish to attend our education programs are able to apply for tuition assistance, which we can offer based on the success of our fundraising efforts for scholarships. Children in need of pediatric therapy who are either without insurance or with too-little insurance can also apply for assistance to cover the costs of treatment, and this money is also dependent on our generous donors and grantors within the community.

Future Plans: Our future plans include nurturing our first class of infants and toddlers as they grow into TLC preschoolers, helping them receive the strongest start in life possible. We plan to continue to grow the number of children we are able to serve every day, especially those in need of financial assistance to attend our programs. To meet this goal we continue to increase our fundraising goals and enrollment goals for children from families able to afford full tuition.

Contact: 303-776-7417, or amarchand@learningwithtllc.org

Website: www.learningwithtllc.org