



FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is underway and classes are filling up fast. Registrations through February 2024 will receive the Early Bird Discount on 2024-2025 monthly tuition! After February 29, 2024, monthly tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year will increase. GEM will continue to offer \$25.00 tuition vouchers for family referrals to GEM. To qualify for a voucher, the family you refer to GEM must complete the registration process and write your name in the referral section on the registration form. You may earn up to 9 vouchers a school year. Only one voucher may be applied per month and vouchers are non-transferable. *Thank you for helping us spread the word about our program!*

Students are placed in classes based on their age as of September 1st. Each age group has specific learning objectives and developmental milestones that are foundational for children and each class is a steppingstone providing age-appropriate learning activities and opportunities for problem solving and the development of critical learning skills. I have worked in early education for 45+ years and I have never had a parent come back and tell me that wished they would have pushed their child ahead but, I have had several parents tell me they wished they would have given their child more time to develop skills on their own timetable at their own rate. We are committed to teaching young children across all domains; physical, emotional/social, spiritual, and cognitive/academic. Some children will excel in one domain and need more opportunities to practice or learn skills in another domain. We provide a wide variety of learning activities and resources to address the needs and learning styles of each child. We work hard to partner with parents to meet the specific needs of each child within the parameters of a classroom environment. Thank you for choosing GEM and for allowing us to be a part of your child's early education experience!

The GEM staff considers it a privilege to partner with parents building a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. We provide a large range of activities to promote development and growth across learning domains. One of the areas of development we address daily at GEM is the area of fine motor skills.

There are many activities and games you can provide for your child at home to encourage their fine motor skill development. Play-dough is a fun sensory activity children enjoy. Manipulating playdough strengthens fingers and hands. Children can use cookie cutters or other child-friendly plastic utensils to make their own unique clay creations. Another fun activity is painting. Finger painting or painting using a brush or other instrument is fun and is a great way to strengthen fine motor control as well as hand-eye coordination. Another way you can strengthen fine motor skills at home is to create a fun simple water activity for your child using one small empty plastic container and one small plastic container filled with water. Let your child soak a sponge in the water and then squeeze the sponge over the empty plastic container. Or use a turkey baster or small eye dropper to transfer water to a new container. Children love water activities! All these activities strengthen fine motor skills and help to prepare children for writing and scissor skills.

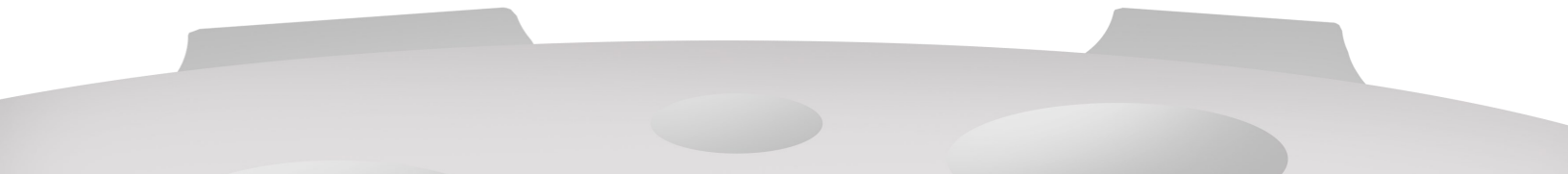
Visit this website for other ideas: understood.org

Thanks so much for sharing your children with us at GEM!

Diana Abbott
Director



“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”
I John 3:1

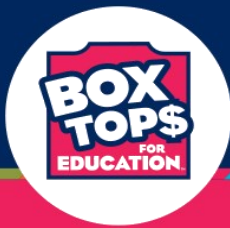


**REGISTER
NOW**

Open Registration Has Begun!

Classes are filling up! If you have not reserved your child's spot for next year yet, please submit it ASAP. Tuition vouchers will be awarded for each family you refer to GEM. They must fill out the registration form, put your name in the referral section, and pay the registration fee in order for you to qualify for a voucher.

Thank you for your referrals!



WE'RE A BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION™ SCHOOL!

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given nearly \$1 billion to schools nationwide, 10 cents at a time. Every kid deserves a chance to reach their full potential, and Box Tops can help us close the funding gaps in our school.

Scan the code to download the Box Tops app and start earning for our school today!



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RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

Support GEM as you do your everyday shopping. Order gift cards that you would use on regular purchases, upcoming travel, or to give as gifts. You can order anytime, however, we will be placing a bulk order on **Thursday, February 8th!**

If you're not using Raise Right yet, sign up today! Scan the QR code or download the Raise Right app and use enrollment code **2F3AL97C43612**.



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STAFF BIRTHDAYS

2/1
Diana Abbott

2/14
Lindsey Kaufman

2/18
Tanya Bailey

2/19
Laurie Davis



PICTURE DAY!

MONDAY FEB. 26TH

ERWIN M/W/F
PALACIOS
TAFFET
CARTER
MURTHY
SMOTHERMAN
WILABY

TUESDAY FEB. 27TH

ERWIN T/TH
SHIVERS
STEPHENS
JONES
STEWART
HERNANDEZ
KAUFMAN
TARBOX

PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING HOME IN YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER.



Moms (grandmothers and aunts welcome) are invited to have breakfast with your child and enjoy a time of fellowship with classmates and other GEM moms.

Muffins, fruit, cereal, juice, milk and coffee will be available.

Tuesday, February 6th from 8:30am-9:00am

Mrs. Erwin's T/TH class
Mrs. Shivers' class
Mrs. Stephens' class
Mrs. Jones' class
Mrs. Stewart's class
Mrs. Hernandez's class
Mrs. Kaufman's class
Mrs. Tarbox's class

Wednesday, February 7th from 8:30am-9:00am

Mrs. Erwin's M/W/F class
Mrs. Palacios' class
Mrs. Taffet's class
Mrs. Murthy's class
Mrs. Carter's class
Mrs. Wilaby's class
Mrs. Smotherman's class



Please scan to make your reservation by 9am Monday, February 5th.

Grace Kids CORNER

Conflicted about Valentines and the Superbowl being so close? Well so are we; which is why we'll have to opportunity to celebrate our love of sports AND our love of love. Special Theme Sunday morning scheduled for February 11th at 9am and 10:45am. Kids can come dressed in something heart themed or their preferred sportswear. Themed games and snacks will be planned to add to the excitement!

We're hosting Sky Ranch Day camps the weeks of June 3rd and June 10th for future k-3rd graders, registration is open.

Stephanie Connon
Children's Director
stephanie@grace-efc.org



gemexpress.org

2005 Estates Pkwy
Lucas, TX 75002

972-727-0071

diana@grace-efc.org



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 	2 	3
4	5	6 	7 	8	9	10
11	12	13 Valentine Parties	14 Valentine Parties	15	16	17
RETRO DRESS-UP DAY						
18	19 	20 	21	22	23 	24
25 	26 	27 	28 	29		