



# Young Horizons

Child Development Centers

www.younghorizons.org

Fall 2017

“Educate Early”

## Professional Development Day

*Goal setting for success*

Each year, we close our doors for one day to focus on our teachers and provide them with time to learn, grow and develop to stay on top of the latest trends in the Early Childhood Education field. This year, we did things a bit differently. At our Professional Development Day at The Grand, each staff member worked individually on goals for their children, parents, and classroom environment. Staff worked on creating SMART goals – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound with their respective supervisors. These goals will be measured each quarter to ensure progress.

Staff’s response was overwhelmingly positive and they were thankful for this

time to plan for success. There has already been a visible improvement in staff morale, children’s activities and classroom environment. We strive to provide a *high-quality* program for our children and families and this is one additional step in that direction.

As is our tradition, we also take this day to celebrate staff’s years of service. Awards included one 5-year, nine 10-year, one 15-year, three 20-year and one 25-year.

We strive to provide the growth and learning opportunities for our staff to ensure our children have the teaching staff that makes a high-quality program.



## Elaine Triplett Retires after 30+ Years Serving Children

*Best Wishes to our North Pacific Center Supervisor*

After 30+ years in the early education field, we bid farewell to Elaine Triplett, supervisor at North Pacific Center as she retires from Young Horizons. She has been a beloved staff member at Young Horizons for 18 years. We are so grateful for her exemplary performance each and every day. Mrs. Elaine, as she was fondly referred to, was rarely absent, making the children, families and staff at the center her top priority. She loved her children and families giving 100% every day.

Families have always shared their gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Elaine as was evidenced at her retirement. Past families who had their children at her center came back to say goodbye and wish her well. A wonderful retirement dinner was held in her honor with current and past staff in attendance. In everything she did, Mrs. Elaine made children her life’s focus. Children knew they were safe, loved and cared for. She had a beautiful way of working with children. She was consistent, fair and established clear boundaries and expectations. She was truly an exemplary teacher, supervisor and mentor to her staff.

She has more than earned a well-deserved retirement and we wish her well. Thank you Mrs. Elaine. We will miss you dearly.

*Gift plaque given by her staff says: “A teacher affects eternity and one can never tell where their influence stops.”*



**Executive  
Director  
Message**



**Educating  
Children  
Is our  
purpose**

Our fiscal year is off to a great start. We are extremely pleased with the newly implemented State eligibility regulations which allow more families to qualify for services. Since the recession, the income eligibility threshold for families was frozen at 70% of the 2005 state median income (SMI) level. Newly passed legislation has brought that number up to the 2016 SMI and families remain eligible until they reach 85% of SMI.

Another wonderful change is 12-month eligibility. This allows a child to have a full year of services without interruption. Now, children can remain in the program as long as eligibility is met at enrollment. Consistency, continuity, and a predictable routine are critical elements to a solid learning foundation every child needs. The focus has shifted to what is in the best interest of the child. This change has also resulted in lower fees charged to parents, based on the State sliding fee scale.

These are significant changes that will allow us to continue providing the high-quality program children deserve.

One of our requirements as state contractors is to conduct a self-assessment on our program. This includes feedback from parents via a parent survey. We are very pleased to consistently hear our parents' satisfaction and gratitude for our program. We are definitely making a difference.

  
Sarah M. Soriano  
Executive Director

## Tower Gardens Expand Learning

*Growing vegetables and herbs help children learn about food sources*



For many children in the city, growing your own food is a foreign, even unknown concept. We are working to change that this year. As part of our curriculum, we have implemented a gardening program.

We have purchased tower gardens for each of our five centers and through this new program, our children will learn how to plant, tend and then harvest their food when ready.

The final step of this program is having our children prepare and cook their harvest. Watching their herbs and vegetables grow and all the learning that goes along with it, will be an exciting and educational experience for all.

Do you have a green thumb? If you would like to participate in our gardening program, please contact our program director, Danielle Triplett at 562-437-8991 ext. 18 to volunteer.

## Annual Family Picnic

*Families enjoy time together*

Food, food and more food! Families had an enjoyable time at the annual Family Picnic at Recreation Park. This picnic is potluck style to give parents an opportunity to share their favorite dish while getting to know other Young Horizons parents and families. A special treat this year was entertainment by *Fantastic Patrick*. He wowed the children and families with juggling, riding a unicycle, walking on a tight rope and conducting a hula-hoop contest. It was a fun-filled day for everyone.



## Family Fun Day

*Parents have fun learning, too!*

Each fall, we invite all our parents to the centers to Family Fun Day. What does a child learn when playing with play dough? How does water and sand play help a child learn? What types of games can we play to encourage physical activity?

Those questions and more are answered by having parents play and interact with their children and become the child for one day. Parents play, paint, jump rope, and perform science experiments all while learning how and what children learn through play. Parents enjoyed the time and the learning experience.



## Pumpkin Pie Protein Smoothies

*Cooking fun starts young*

Children experienced making their own pumpkin pie protein smoothies. They followed a delicious recipe that includes pumpkin, spices, protein and milk. With a little help from their teacher, children blended their own smoothies.

The fun of this experience was the process of measuring and mixing ingredients and tasting the end result. Thank you to all the teaching staff for assisting and to our program director for the recipe. We welcome your ideas for recipes for our children to try.



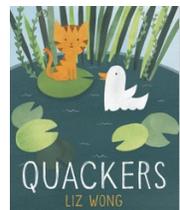
## Read for the Record

*Reading with children brings joy*

Ninety-one readers came to read to the children at our five centers for *Jump-start Read for the Record's* annual reading day. This year's selected book was *Quackers*, by Liz Wong, an endearing story about a kitten who thought he was a duck and had to learn how to be a kitten. Children enjoyed having guests read to them as much as our readers enjoyed reading to the children.

We are grateful for those who took time out of their day to bring joy to our children through reading.

If you are interested in volunteering to read to our children, please call our main office for further information or to schedule a time. 562-437-8991



**Event  
Calendar**  
*Join us*

### Harvest Lunches

Tuesday, November 14  
Central Pacific Center  
Wednesday, November 15  
Grisham Center  
Ludloff Center  
Friday, November 17  
Kohn Center  
North Pacific Center

### Our centers will be closed in observance of the following Holidays :

11/23 & 24 Thanksgiving Day  
and the following day  
12/22 thru 12/26 Christmas Holiday  
1/1/18 New Year's Day  
1/15/18 Martin Luther King Holiday  
2/19/18 President's Day

### Kindergarten Festivals

Community-wide resource fairs for families of children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2018-2019. These festivals are a collaboration with the LB Early Education Committee and the LB Unified School District.  
January 13—Dooley Elementary  
February 3—Roosevelt Elementary  
February 24—Oropeza Elementary  
March 10—Burcham Elementary

### Volunteer Opportunity

Each year we conduct an assessment, rating the environment of each of our classrooms to ensure compliance with high-quality standards. The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS) and Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scales (ITERS) are part of our self-review process as required by the State.

Beginning January, we need at least 30 volunteers to spend a day in one of our classrooms and evaluate the quality of our program. If you would like further information about how to volunteer, please contact our Program Director, Danielle Triplett 562 437-8991 x 18.



**Young Horizons**  
 Child Development Centers  
 501 Atlantic Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Address Service Requested

To our friend (s):



**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**  
**NOW AVAILABLE**

Please email us at [info@younghorizons.org](mailto:info@younghorizons.org)  
 if you prefer to connect electronically.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**ENCLOSED**

**Our mission is to provide quality childcare and preschool programs in a caring, loving and learning environment.**

Young Horizons is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization serving children in Long Beach. Donations are tax deductible to the limit allowed by law.

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*Serving 416 children in five Long Beach locations*

**Kohn Center/Main Office**  
 501 Atlantic Ave.

**North Pacific Center**  
 2418 Pacific Ave.

**Grisham Center**  
 11 A W. 49th St.

**Central Pacific Center**  
 1840 Pacific Ave.

**Ludloff Center**  
 2650 Pacific Ave.

License #198000638

Young Horizons is an equal opportunity provider and employer  
 Office: 562 437-8991 Fax: 562 436-8847

**[www.younghorizons.org](http://www.younghorizons.org)**

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