# **Little Munchkins Learning Center**



"Where learning and loving go hand in hand



### **Merry Christmas!**

December 2025



### Looking Ahead...

Dec 15th- Happy Hanukkah Dec 24th-26th- Closed for Christmas

Dec 23rd- Christmas Parties

Dec 26th- Happy Kwanzaa Dec 31st-Jan 2nd Closed for New Years



babies!!!

Maximilian F. 12/08 12/19 Elaine B. Adonis W. 12/21 12/15 Isaiah R. Madelynn C. 12/31 Dane A. 12/30 Aiden E. Stormi B. 12/02 12/14 Rolando S-G 12/23 Jhovi R 12/29

### Just a Reminder...

Our center hours are 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Please remember that our latest drop-off time is 9:00 AM.

Beginning at 6:00 PM, a late fee of \$3.00 per minute will be charged. All late fees must be paid directly to the staff member who stays late—in cash or through their personal CashApp (NOT the center's CashApp). These fees do not go to the center.

If you believe you may be late for pickup, please call us as soon as possible at (512) 454-1877.

#### **Christmas Parties**

Our Christmas parties will be held on **December 23rd**. Please make sure you have signed up on your child's/ children's party list, which is posted either outside or inside their classroom.

# Christmas Drive for Foster Village

Little Munchkins is excited to partner with Foster Village, a nonprofit that provides new items and essential support for foster families. Every year, we adopt a family in need—but this year, we're expanding our impact!

We're teaming up with Foster Village to help support the entire community, coming together to make a meaningful difference this holiday season.

**Drive Dates:** December 1st-19th

(You're welcome to bring items before December 1st!) Let's show what community togetherness looks like-families, staff, and friends joining to support children and caregivers who need it most.

Learn more about Foster Village: www.fostervillageaustin.org

## **Building Healthy Digital Habits Early**

Children today are surrounded by screens, which makes it especially important to set healthy limits. Too much screen time can disrupt a child's sleep, as the blue light from tablets, phones, and TVs makes it harder for them to fall and stay asleep. Excessive screen use is also linked to behavior and attention challenges, since children can become overstimulat ed or have difficulty focusing after long periods of screen exposure. In addition, more time on screens often means less time for active play, which is essential for healthy growth and development.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ages 2-5 have no more than one hour of high quality screen time per day, while older children should follow consistent limits that encourage balance and healthy routines. Watching programs together can also be helpful, as co-viewing allows parents to guide what their children are seeing and better support their understanding. Establishing screen-free routines—such as during meals, at bedtime, and during family activities—can greatly improve learning, communication, and overall behav-

# Director's Note:

Amazing News! We are overjoyed to announce that Mr. Eddie and Mrs. Brenda has generously donated \$26,133.75 to St. Jude **Children's Research Hospital! Thanks to his** incredible support, children and families battling serious illnesses will receive hope, care, and life-changing treatment. Join us in celebrating this amazing act of kindness!

**#HopAThon #StJude #MakingADifference** #CommunityStrong



What do you call a greedy elf?

Elfish!





What do snowmen call their kids?

Chill-dren!



**Orna-mints!** 







- Although gingerbread has existed for centuries, the gingerbread house tradition became famous in Germany in the 1500s. It grew even more popular after the Brothers Grimm published *Hansel and Gretel*, a story in which children find a house made entirely of candy and gingerbread. The tale inspired people to start creating their own decorated gingerbread homes during winter festivals.
- Reindeer have a unique adaptation that helps them survive the dark Arctic winters. Their eyes shift from a golden-brown color in summer to a deep blue in winter. This color change allows their eyes to gather more light, helping them see better during the very dim December days and long nights far north.
- Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where they grow as tall shrubs and were once used by the Aztecs for dye and medicine. They became associated with Christmas in the U.S. after Joel Poinsett—the first American ambassador to Mexico—brought them back in the 1820s. Their bright red leaves (not petals!) made them instantly popular for winter decorations.