

Atascadero Children's Center

Spring 2026

Newsletter



Upcoming ACC Events and Important Dates:

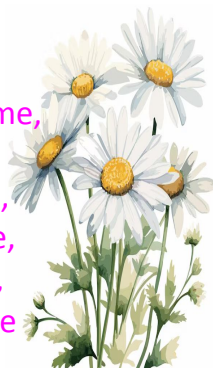
- **Fall Registration:**
February 27th - March 16th
- **Pony Pictures:**
April 14th and 15th
- **Easter Celebrations:**
Tuesday, March 31st (details to come)
- **BookFair:**
Monday, March 23rd - 27th
- **ACC Closed for Memorial Day:**
May 25th
- **ACC Closed for Summer Prep & Teacher Work Day:** June 5th

Additional School-Age Program Important Dates:

- **AUSD Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Mon through Fri, March 16th - 20th; early release all week.
- **AUSD Spring Break, ACC open for full day care:**
Fri, April 3rd - Fri, April 10th
***Hot Lunch will be offered throughout spring break - sign up sheets will be in the kitchen**

Buttercups & Daisies

Buttercups and daisies
Oh, the pretty flowers,
Coming here the springtime,
To tell of sunny hours.
While trees are leafless,
while the fields are bare,
buttercups and daisies,
Spring up here and there
-Mary Howitt



FALL REGISTRATION:

Return your registration by **Monday, March 16th** to secure your child's spot!

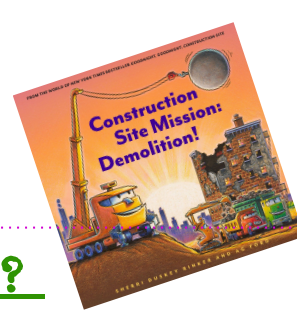
You have 2 options for turning in your registration:

- Fill out the Google Form
- Return a paper copy to your program's Director

On the 3rd Friday of each month, Atascadero Children's Center hosts a **"KID'S NIGHT OUT"** for the Beginning Preschool and Toddler Program (children ages 2 and up), Preschool Program, and School Age Program. Dinner and an evening of entertainment will be provided. This evening can be a special time for your children to enjoy their friends and teachers while you plan your own special evening.

TIME:	5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
WHEN:	March 20th, April 17th, May 15th
WHO:	Students 2 years and older.
WHAT TO BRING:	Pajamas, sleeping bag, pillow and a stuffed toy.
HOW:	Children must be signed up and prepaid by the Wednesday before.
FEES:	\$40.00 per child

If you have any questions, please feel free to let us know. We are looking forward to lots of fun with your child at KIDS NIGHT OUT!! Each class must have a minimum of 3 children sign up in order to hold the event. ***If you cancel your spot after Wednesday you will still be charged half the price of attendance.***



What's Up at ACC?

As you may know the Toddler building has been under construction; and more and more construction! It's like a Build, Dog, Build book! (a book we highly recommend) It has taken more time than expected with new issues to address all along. While we love all the rain we got, we found out that drainage has become an *almost* insurmountable issue. And so we will be doing some big demo work in the playgrounds - which will be so thrilling to watch! Then we get to put the playgrounds back together, but even better than before. All this excitement will surely be reflected in our play and circle times. We appreciate your ongoing patience as we journey through these big changes together and we will continue to minimize the impact on our classrooms and families as much as we are able.

Spring is in the air and all around the program we have been loving the warming weather and cool breezes. Everything is turning green and flowers are beginning to bloom. We're seeing more bugs and lizards and birds in flight all around us - what an exhilarating time! Hopefully you have noticed we are posting more photos of all the fun we are having at ACC on instagram and Facebook, we do love to share our days with you! Thank you, so much, to the parents who have taken the time to post reviews on Google, Yelp and Facebook. It means so much to us. If you have not had the chance to, we would appreciate more reviews.

We are so grateful we get to spend these early learning years with your children. We hope we show you every day how much we love our work and your children!

We want to share with you a bit about the state of child care in general and in California in particular. You may have seen in the news, child care is at risk, by March of 2021 more than 8,500 licensed child care sites had closed in California since the pandemic * and closures are continuing everywhere.

While we fully support the expansion TK in the public school system; it has limited the options for families of children ages zero to five. Child care centers rely on preschool age children to carry the weight of operating costs and allow for the care of younger children. It is not possible to charge the actual cost of care for toddlers. We are precariously balancing care for a range of ages while losing Prek children to TK. We also provide the range of hours most families need - unlike publicly funded child care settings which rarely provide more than six hours per day, greatly reducing their costs.

We are not sharing this information for sympathy, but because it is rare for people working outside of the early care and learning industry to understand the tightrope we walk daily. All child care providers, both publicly and privately funded are needed. Many states outside of California provided what is known as a mixed-delivery system - if this system had been implemented here in California private centers and in home care would be better supported enabling more options for families and care for a greater number of children.

We pride ourselves on offering an excellent early educational foundation as well as the highest quality child care that families expect and deserve. We will continue to offer our pre k program as an option; it's highly beneficial and the right choice for some families. In addition, we feel confident our school and business are safe. But we must continually adjust our expenditures or rates, which often affects our enrolled families and our staffing. We are doing all we can to minimize the impact you will feel - with both small and large actions.

We are sending out an satisfaction questionnaire along with registration this year, your families are the heart of our program and we want to hear from you, please take a few minutes to fill it out. We are not collecting names or emails so you are welcome to respond anonymously and fully. Thank you!

