



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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NEW PROGRAM CULTIVATES "BUDDING" KNEE-HIGH NATURE LOVERS

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center launches "Little Buds" for toddlers and their grown-ups

Bay Village, Ohio --- Curious 12 to 24-month-olds will have a "class" of their own this fall at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. *Little Buds* is a new nature and science-themed program that aims to inspire toddlers and to bring together their parents and caretakers in a playgroup atmosphere. *Little Buds* will be similar to the Center's popular *Frogs and Polliwogs* program geared towards slightly older children with an adult.

"At 12 to 24 months, children are intent about exploring every facet of their surroundings. This program offers a stimulating environment where they can discover the *natural world*, including live animals to see and touch, guided indoor and outdoor exploration, simple crafts, music and more," said Director of Education Darci Sanders. "We also know that kids are being bombarded with technology – TV, video and computer games – at a very young age these days. We want to offer an alternative to that influence as early as possible."

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center already reaches this young audience through free exhibits, family-friendly live animal programs and the popular *Twinkle Tots* planetarium program where the diapered set can practice being in the dark and help "wave" the moon and sun to rise and set. "We've found that parents of children this age really appreciate the opportunity to get out, to discover new things together and to make new friends," Sanders says.

The one-hour *Little Buds* classes will be offered on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. Sign-ups for *Little Buds* begins July 12 for Center Members who want to take advantage of early, 9-month registration discounts. Other registration dates, along with additional fall class and program listings for all ages, are on the Center's website at www.lensc.org. You can also call Lake Erie Nature & Science Center at (440) 871-2900 for more information.