



# Tottenberry's Times



Tottenberry's Private School & Day Care

January/February 2026



## January 2-6

Winter Break  
Non-Academic

## January 6

Chick-fil-A Day

## January 19

MLK Day

School Closed

## February 16

Presidents' Day

Non-Academic

## March 9 - 13

Spring Break

Non-Academic

## April 3

Good Friday

School Closed

## April 9

Staff Meeting

School Closes at 6:00

## April 24 & 25

Spring Pictures

## No Car Seats, Please!

If possible, please leave all car seats in your car rather than at the school during the day. Unfortunately, we do not have room to store them. We do understand that, if someone different will be picking up your child, you have no choice but to leave a car seat. We can plan to store one or two occasionally. We appreciate your help with this! We need to keep all doorways and hallways clear in case of an emergency.



## School Closed



Please note that Tottenberry's will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is the first year we have done this, so I don't want anyone to be caught off guard.



## Tuition Due Dates

Please make note of the upcoming tuition due dates:

- ❖ Monday, January 26
- ❖ Monday, February 23
- ❖ Monday, March 23

A daily late fee of \$25 will be added to all unpaid invoices after Wednesday.



## Our Doors Are More Secure

We recently hired Scottish Window Tinting to install a security film on our front doors. We had them apply a clear 8mm film designed to slow down someone trying to get in. The film is also anchored to the frame of the door which will keep any broken glass in the frame if it is broken which will further slow down a break in attempt. We are constantly looking for ways to keep our children safe while they are at Tottenberry's.



## School Uniforms

If your child is in the Owls Nest, Farm, or Pre-K rooms, please remember to send him/her in a uniform shirt or dress Monday - Thursday. Fridays are always free dress. Shirts and dresses are available for purchase at the front.



## Out with the Old, In with the New

Let's get organized this year! If you have received notice that something is missing from your child's file, please take care of this matter by the end of January. Fines may be charged for failure to comply.

Check out our website!  
[tottenberrys.com](http://tottenberrys.com)



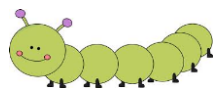
## Thursday Lunches

For only \$4, you can order a hot lunch for your child on Thursdays. If you want your child to participate, let us know at the front desk or message us via brightwheel. Payments can be made with cash, check, or through brightwheel. You are welcome to pay for several lunches at one time. Once payment is made, we will take care of the rest. The menu for the next couple of months is as follows:

- 1/8 - chicken nuggets
- 1/15 - pizza
- 1/22 - chicken nuggets
- 1/29 - chicken nuggets
- 2/5 - pizza
- 2/12 - chicken nuggets
- 2/19 - pizza
- 2/26 - chicken nuggets



Fridays are always free  
dress days!



## Caterpillars

**Ms. Michelle & Ms. Perla**  
**6 weeks – 6 months**

We hope all our families had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This time of year reminds us how grateful we are for each of your little ones. We truly enjoy watching them grow, learn, and explore each day! It's amazing how quickly they're developing right before our eyes! To keep things exciting for our Caterpillars, we've made some changes to the classroom layout. The new setup gives the babies a fresh environment to explore and helps encourage new skills and discoveries.

As we move into the colder season, we want to share a few helpful reminders:

🧥 Cold Weather Items: Please make sure all jackets, hats, and other winter accessories are labeled with your child's name so nothing gets mixed up.

🍲 Starting Solids: If your baby is beginning solids, please ensure that any new foods have been tried at home for at least two weeks before bringing it to school. This helps us monitor for any possible allergies safely.

🛏 Sleep Sacks: Please remember to bring your child's sleep sack every Monday so we have it ready for the week.

Thank you for trusting us with your little caterpillar. We are so proud of how far they have all come, and we look forward to continuing to care for them, teach them, and watch them grow.

## Butterflies

**Ms. Perla & Ms. Rachel**  
**6 – 12 months**



Happy New Year to our Butterfly families! We are really thrilled to start 2026 with many learning skills that will help our infants in achieving developmental milestones. If your child is starting to take steps, please provide shoes so he/she can get accustomed to walking in them. Please note, we stop serving breakfast at 8:15am. Also, as required by the health department all personal items must be labeled with the child's name and homemade food must be dated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We are here to help. The following topics will be introduced to the infants over the next couple of months:

(continued next column)

|               | January                     | February                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| story time    | My World & Where is My Nose | My World & You Are My Sunshine |
| animals       | dog & cow                   | pig & cat                      |
| colors        | red                         | red & pink                     |
| sign language | all done, mom, water        | more, dad, book                |

## The Wild Ones

**Ms. Daisy & Ms. Juliana**  
**12 – 18 months**



Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. We will be continuing with our curriculum and will also add many more fun activities to our day. Here are the lessons we will introduce over the next two months:

|         | January                  | February                             |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Theme   | Polar Pals & Tinker Time | Hearts and Hugs & Eating the Rainbow |
| Shape   | Heart                    | Heart                                |
| Letters | J, K                     | L, M                                 |
| Colors  | White                    | Red                                  |

Also, we have a friendly reminder. It is required by the health department that you label all food, bottles, cups, and anything else you bring for your child with his/her name. Homemade food items also need to be dated. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

## The Little Garden

**Ms. Jacy & Ms. Whitney**  
**18 – 24 months**



Welcome to the new year in The Little Garden! Our toddlers will continue exploring, discovering, and learning through hands-on, curiosity-driven play. In January, we'll begin with a unit called Polar Pals, where the children will learn about cold climates, snow, ice, and animals like penguins and walruses. We'll also enjoy Tinker Time, giving the children the chance to explore how everyday objects work through safe, simple experiments and problem-solving activities. In February, our focus will be Hearts & Hugs, a theme centered on kindness, sharing, and feelings through stories, songs, and play. We'll also explore Eating the Rainbow, where the children will discover and try a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables while learning

(continued next column)

about healthy choices. We, Ms. Jacy and Ms. Whitney, are excited to make new memories with your children. Please remember to label all belongings, including lunch items, snacks, cups, diapers, wipes, and extra clothing. We can't wait to kick off an amazing year in The Little Garden!

## The Clubhouse

**Ms. Adi & Ms. Julie**  
**2 – 2½ years**



Happy New Year! We are excited to welcome the new year with engaging themes that encourage creativity, kindness, exploration, and healthy habits. This month we will be learning through play, hands-on activities, and meaningful connections.

🦋 Theme 1: Polar Pals

We will bundle up and dive into the world of polar animals! The children will learn about penguins, polar bears, seals, and icy habitats through:

- Winter-themed art projects
- Sensory play with "snow" and ice
- Songs, stories, and movement activities
- Learning about cold weather and how animals stay warm

🔧 Theme 2: Tinker Time

Our little engineers will put their thinking caps on! During Tinker Time, the children will:

- Build with blocks and recycled materials
- Explore cause-and-effect through simple experiments
- Practice teamwork and problem-solving
- Strengthen fine motor skills through hands-on creation

This theme encourages curiosity, creativity, and confidence.

💖 Theme 3: Hearts & Hugs

As Valentine's Day approaches, we'll focus on love, kindness, and emotions. Activities include:

- Talking about feelings and friendship
- Sharing, taking turns, and showing kindness
- Heart-themed crafts and songs
- Learning positive ways to express emotions

🌈 Theme 4: Eating the Rainbow

We will explore healthy eating by learning about colorful fruits and vegetables! The children will:

- Learn how colors connect to healthy foods
- Participate in food-themed art and games
- Practice making healthy choices
- Talk about how food helps our bodies grow strong

# The Space Room

Ms. Grace & Ms. Jazzmyni

2½ – 3 years



Happy New Year, parents! We hope everyone has smooth sailing into the new year. For the first couple of weeks of the year, we're going to focus on the new topics - Polar Pals (cold climates and creatures), Tinker Time (everyday day tools and objects), Hearts and Hugs (expressing kindness), and Eating the Rainbow (color discovery). We've been doing great with our potty training! Please let us know if you feel your child might be ready for underwear. We are also available to answer any questions or hear any concerns. Please remember that ALL personal items, including food items, must be labeled with your child's name and homemade food items need to be dated when they were made. Because our weather is always changing and the kids love a good mess, please make sure you send plenty of options for extra clothes. Here's to a good 2026! This is what we will cover in January and February.

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| letters      | J, K / L, M     |
| shape        | HEART           |
| colors       | WHITE/<br>PINK  |
| numbers      | 15-20           |
| Spanish song | DIEZ<br>DEDITOS |



## The Owls Nest

Ms. Shara & Ms. Veronica

3 – 3½ years

Happy New Year, Families! We wanted to start off by giving you all a little update about our classroom. 'The Elephant Room' will now be 'The Owls Nest'. Everything else - teachers, routines, and curriculum will remain the same. The kiddos love the new name and are excited about the change. 🦉 We hope you all enjoyed the holiday season! We can't wait to kick off the new year with holiday stories and lots of smiles. ❄️ 🧊 For the next two months, we will focus on winter, and the themes love and kindness. We will also continue to learn our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. Here is what we will be learning in the months of January and February:

(continued next column)

| January                           | February                                             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| M, N, & O                         | P, Q, & R                                            |
| 11 & 12                           | 13 & 14                                              |
| white                             | pink                                                 |
| hexagon                           | heart                                                |
| Polar Pals, Tinker Time, & Winter | Hearts & Hugs, Eating the Rainbow, Kindness and Love |

Thank you for starting the new year with us! We are truly grateful for the support you've given us the last few months and can't wait to create more special memories with the kiddos. We hope you all have a wonderful 2026! 🌟 ❤️

## The Farm Room

Ms. Belem & Ms. Lauren

3½ – 4 years



Happy New Year! We're excited to kick off 2025 with lots of learning, celebrations, and special events. Please take a moment to look over what's happening in our classroom during January and February. 📅

★ We're quickly approaching our 100th day of school! Be on the lookout for an announcement with details about how we'll celebrate this fun milestone. We'll have activities centered around counting, creativity, and what "100" looks like in our world.

🧧 The Chinese New Year is coming up, and we'll learn about traditions, food, and celebrations from around the world. Please watch for information about a small classroom activity related to this holiday.

❤️ Our class will celebrate Valentine's Day in February. More details will be sent regarding Valentine exchanges, treats, and any items students may need to bring.

This is what we will cover in January and February.

|         |                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letters | Mm – Rr                                                        |
| Numbers | 11 – 14                                                        |
| Colors  | white & pink                                                   |
| Themes  | Polar Pals, Tinker Time, Hearts and Hugs, & Eating the Rainbow |

Feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you, Farm Family!

We will also celebrate the 100th day of school and Valentines Day! Please keep a look out for our special notes. I will be sending an updated version of the farm room expectations as well. As we get closer to spring, we can't wait to start planting. Last year our cucumber and tomato plants were very successful in providing us with vegetables. We are hoping that this year's plants will do the same. We hope that everyone continues to keep warm and has a successful 2025!

## Pre-K

Ms. Marshonna & Ms. Rebecca

4-5 years



Happy New Year! We're excited to see what 2026 has in store for Pre-K. This is what we will cover over the next 2 months:

| January                  | February                             |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Polar Pals & Tinker Time | Hearts and Hugs & Eating the Rainbow |
| M, N, & O                | P, Q, & R                            |
| 9 & 10                   | 13 & 14                              |
| white                    | pink                                 |
| octagon                  | heart                                |

We will celebrate the 100th Day of School on Wednesday, February 4. You can send your child dressed as a 100-year-old or in a festive outfit. Yippee! We will also have a Valentine's Day lunch on Wednesday, February 11. More details will be available soon. Please feel free to reach out via brightwheel if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

## Art Class

Ms. Griselda

1 year and older



Happy New Year!! 🦉🦉 I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with friends and family. In the next two months, we will learn about different artists. We will also learn about Texture, which is another element of Art. Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day are fast approaching, and the kids will enjoy working on arts and crafts related to these fun days. It's always a JOY working with my little Tottenberry's friends. 😊  
 "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." - Edgar Degas

Please place an ice pack in your child's lunch box each day!



# Kindergarten

Ms. Ashlie

Happy New Year!

Now that the holidays

are over, it's time to jump right back into learning. Throughout January we'll learn about jobs & income as well as needs vs wants. We'll start January with a week of review as a little refresher, just to make sure we're back where we need to be. After that, we blow right into our week about weather. We'll start tracking our daily weather and learning how to predict what the next day might bring. We'll also talk about what clothing is appropriate for different kinds of weather. The third week of January will be focused on persuasive text and, since that week includes Martin Luther King Day, we'll be using a few of his speeches as examples. During the last week of January, we'll learn about Presidents & U.S. Symbols. We'll also talk about why people have jobs and the different types of jobs that can be found at home, in school, and in the community. We leap right into February with a week covering Groundhog Day and our hundredth day of school! We'll learn how to do (simple) research and how to read a map. The second week's theme is Valentine's Day! Starting this week, we'll begin learning about historical figures and patriotic holidays. We'll also introduce 3-D shapes. During the third week of February, we will talk about Lunar Year and Mardi Gras. We'll also study repeating patterns in the natural world (such as seasons, day/night, etc.). The last week of February will be Western themed! We'll begin learning how to differentiate between living and non-living things. We'll also be comparing 2-D & 3-D shapes. Throughout both months we'll continue our work on writing numbers & letters as well as practicing simple addition & subtraction. We'll study the numbers 11-15, and we'll focus more on learning how to sound out words. We rocked our first semester, and I can't wait for the beginning of our second. Let's get learning!



## Bible Class

Ms. Carla

2 years and older

I hope you all had a truly wonderful and relaxing Christmas break! I'm sending my very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to you and your family. It's fantastic to be back for another exciting season of learning together! As we dive into January, our adventure will really focus on understanding Jesus and the incredible role He plays as our Savior. We'll be exploring some inspiring stories and powerful teachings directly from the New Testament, especially drawing from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Our goal is to truly grasp the amazing love and guidance Jesus offers us every single day. And don't worry, we'll also connect the dots with some captivating tales from the Old Testament, showing how God's beautiful plan has been unfolding throughout history! Looking ahead to February, get ready for some truly heartwarming lessons. We're going to explore the boundless love God and Jesus have for each of us, a love that's always there, even when we stumble or make mistakes. We'll learn all about Jesus's incredible compassion, how He brought healing and comfort to so many people, and the awe-inspiring miracles He performed. Most importantly, we'll chat about what it means for us to follow in His footsteps and live lives filled with kindness and grace in our own communities. Honestly, it's just wonderful to see how engaged and excited all the children are to learn about God's word. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and I'm really looking forward to another fantastic couple of months with them!

## No Juice, Please!

Please fill your child's cups or bottles only with water in the mornings.



## Spanish Class

Ms. Angelica

3 years and older

¡Hola! It is incredible how time flies! Christmas is over and it's a new year! I feel so blessed to have been teaching Spanish to the children. They have learned so much this year. They can sing the Buenos Dias and the Hola and Adios songs and recite the months of the year and the numbers. We will soon begin a unit on Winter and begin learning the alphabet in Spanish. I'm excited to teach the children more! May God bless you! ¡Felices fiestas!



## Noteworthy News

Mr. Phillip

### Pre-K, Kindergarten, & After Schoolers

Greetings, my name is Phillip Spiller, with On Point Fine Arts Fitness. It has been an honor to provide music instruction to the students at Tottenberry's Private school. I am excited to inform you that my band will be performing a winter show of songs that the children know and enjoy. The performance is scheduled for January 6, 2026. In class, the students are still learning quarter rest, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes. As I continue to teach these note patterns, I will utilize fun activities that will teach the students how to apply those same note patterns to songs. Also, the students will have the opportunity to apply the same note patterns to instruments such as drums, piano, shakers, handbells, rhythm sticks, and tambourines. I am enjoying working with the students at Tottenberry's and I look forward to creating an awesome and fun musical program for them.





**P.E.**  
Coach Jayda  
**3 years and older**

Happy new year Tottenberry's family! I am grateful for another successful year of P.E.! As we step into the new year, we will continue to play games like parachute, hoop games, and frisbee throwing which encourage partner play, teamwork, and good sportsmanship! Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your children's growth in 2025. I am looking forward to another year of learning, laughter, and meaningful progress in 2026!



## Stranger Danger

Parents, please DO NOT let other parents in the building! Only parents who know the code should enter freely. If you see someone standing at the door and feel like you should help them, let them know that someone will assist them in a moment.

## SMART CORE LABS Afterschool Program

**The world is changing faster than schools can keep up.**

By the time your child enters the workforce, AI fluency won't be a "bonus skill" - it will be a requirement.

SmartCore Labs bridges the gap between traditional education and the future economy.

Classes are \$30 per week. Information about registering is available at the front desk.

### STEM

**Mondays @ 4:30**  
**4 years & up**

The students will make hands-on STEM projects with cool monthly themes.

**STEM, Coding, & Robotics**  
**Tuesdays @ 4:30**  
**5 years & up**

The students will have a rotation of all 3 subjects to experience the world of technology and science.



## Soccer Shots Monday Mornings 3 – 5 years

Soccer Shots is an engaging children's soccer program with a focus on character development. Our caring team positively impacts children's lives on and off the field through best-in-class coaching, curriculum, and communication. Classes are held on Mondays at 9:00 AM. More information is available at the front or at the website [soccershots.com/Houston](http://soccershots.com/Houston).



## Activ8 Monday Mornings Wednesday Afternoons

**3 years – After Schoolers**

The ultimate kid-friendly karate classes are held Monday mornings for the 3-5 year olds and Wednesday afternoons for the after schoolers. Information about receiving a starter pack for 50% off is available at the front. The starter packs include: an activation fee, the first month's tuition, a student uniform, and a belt. What a deal! Email any questions to

[activ8lifetoday@gmail.com](mailto:activ8lifetoday@gmail.com).



## All-Star Gymnastics Thursday Mornings 2½ – 5 years

This educational and developmental class encourages structured physical activity through tumbling while elevating balance and flexibility skills. It will also escalate the development of forward, backward, motor, and cooperative skills and involve the children in challenging core strength, agility, and endurance activities. The class meets every Thursday morning. Tuition is only \$60 a month. Register and get more information at [houstonsgn.com](http://houstonsgn.com).

## Taco Crunch Wrap



### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pkg McCormick© Original Taco Seasoning Mix
- ¾ cup water
- 8 burrito size (10-inch) flour tortillas
- Tortilla chips (your favorite brand and flavor)
- 2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- ½ cup sour cream
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 T oil

### Make It

1. Brown ground beef in large skillet; drain. Stir in taco seasoning mix and water; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Place 1 flour tortilla on clean work surface. Spoon about ¼ cup of the taco meat onto center of tortilla, spreading into a circle. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons of the shredded cheese. Place 4 to 6 tortilla chips over top. Layer with 2 tablespoons of each cheese, lettuce, and tomato. Top with 1 tablespoon sour cream. Fold edges of tortilla up and over top of filling to enclose. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make 8 crunch wraps.
3. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Working in batches, please wraps in skillet folded side down. Cook 1 to 2 minutes on each side until lightly browned and crispy, adding additional oil as needed. Cut in half and serve with additional toppings such as guacamole, hot sauce, and salsa, if desired.

Test Kitchen Tip: Swap in your favorite nacho cheese sauce in place of the shredded cheese.

Courtesy of McCormick