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Contact:

Amy Popp
PR Manager
Phone: 248-697-9140
Email: apopp@learningcaregroup.com

Childtime & Tutor Time Curriculums Fully Prepare Children for Success in Kindergarten

Innovative assessment tool confirms that early education provider exceeds learning objectives

NOVI, Mich., August 8, 2007 – Childtime Learning Centers and Tutor Time Child Care / Learning Centers are proud to announce that data from an ongoing developmental assessment has proven that its proprietary curriculums help prepare children for future academic success. Both Childtime and Tutor Time are brands included in the Learning Care Group, Inc. portfolio, the international leader in child education and family solutions.

Learning Care Group recently utilized the Galileo online preschool assessment tool – developed by Assessment Technology Inc. (ATI) – to evaluate the progress of thousands of children enrolled in its Childtime and Tutor Time programs over a six month period¹. The results showed that children attending either provider made substantial gains in their learning and development and have the educational skills needed for a successful transition into kindergarten.

“Every parent wonders if they made the right choice when selecting an early education and child care provider for their family,” said Bill Davis, CEO of Learning Care Group. “Now, we can provide concrete data to our families that shows how our proprietary curriculums are meeting the specific developmental and educational needs of all the children we serve.”

Childtime offers *The Empowered Child*[™] curriculum, which was inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach to early learning. Tutor Time’s curriculum is based on the theory of multiple intelligences and is called *LifeSmart*[™]. Both curriculums were designed by early education specialists within Learning Care Group.

Data compiled using the Galileo assessment tool showed that classrooms of both Childtime and Tutor Time children who were ready to “graduate” into kindergarten had their highest percentage of learned indicators – 92 percent mastery – in the following critical school readiness areas:

- **Language and Literacy** – listening skills; following directions; receptive vocabulary (listening and understanding); expressive vocabulary (speaking and communicating); book knowledge and appreciation; alphabet knowledge; early reading and early writing.
- **Early Math** – counting; sorting; seriation, shapes and time.

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- **Approaches to Learning** – initiative; curiosity; learning about objects and events; engagement and persistence; goal setting and planning; reasoning and problem-solving.

Additionally, the Galileo assessment tool provides researchers with developmental level scores, estimates of children’s overall abilities in a given area of learning or what children are likely to know and be ready to learn next. Results show that Childtime and Tutor Time children achieved a substantial level of growth in a six month period, usually the level of growth anticipated after one year.

“The gain in developmental levels achieved by children participating in the Childtime and Tutor Time programs in a six month period should be applauded,” said Dr. Jason Feld, vice president of corporate projects for ATI.

Furthermore, as the children’s learning was assessed on over 100 indicators of kindergarten readiness, results were categorized into three levels of learning – beginning, intermediate and advanced. By the end of the six-month assessment, the number of children who were considered to be among the advanced level of learning had doubled.

“We are very excited that this data confirms what we have already known – that our *Empowered Child* and *LifeSmart* curriculums prepare children for a successful educational experience in kindergarten and beyond,” said Richard Cohen, vice president of education for Learning Care Group. “We place a strong value on these assessments and are looking forward to utilizing Galileo technology to further enhance our program offerings.”

According to Cohen, Learning Care Group will be using Galileo at its 250 Childtime locations and more than 200 Tutor Time centers (corporate and franchise) across the country. It will be adapted by location to ensure that each state’s unique pre-kindergarten requirements are being met by the curriculum.

Also, the data collected through Galileo will assist teachers in regularly developing a customized curriculum based on the developmental needs and academic progress of each individual child.

As the national movement continues towards formalized, quality standards of early education, Learning Care Group will clearly be at the forefront, utilizing technology in ways that are unprecedented in the fields of child care and preschool.

¹ Assessment Method: Teachers assessed the children in their classrooms over a six-month period by reviewing work samples and directly observing how each child’s learning and developmental growth were progressing in specific areas. Using a “path referenced” or stair-step approach (in which teachers viewed each student according to his/her progress along a specific developmental path) the teachers submitted detailed observational assessments on each individual child to Galileo, the data was aggregated and then made available through the assessment’s online system.

About the Galileo Assessment Tool:

Galileo's research-based assessment methodology, validated on thousands of children, delivers rapid access to credible information about children's progress. With the Galileo assessment tool, teachers easily and efficiently include current assessment information into the lesson planning process. Dynamic tools in Galileo help educators respond to changes in curricular goals and methods.

About Assessment Technology Incorporated (ATI):

Assessment Technology, Inc., an educational technology company founded in 1986, is the creator of the Galileo assessment tool designed to help teachers, administrators, and educational organizations improve student performance through assessments, instructional tools and reports. For more information, visit www.ati-online.com

About Childtime Learning Centers:

Childtime is one of the nation's largest providers of child care and preschool educational services. Over the last 30 years, Childtime has earned a strong reputation and has grown into a network of over 250 centers. The home-like atmosphere of the centers and the personal attention students receive sets them apart from other national childcare networks. For more information, please call Customer Support at (866) 244-5384 or visit www.childtime.com.

About Tutor Time Child Care / Learning Centers:

Tutor Time is one of the nation's largest providers of child care and early educational services, providing care to more than 28,000 students throughout the United States and internationally. Its proprietary *LifeSmart*[™] curriculum and age specific classrooms, play spaces and personal spaces foster children's self esteem and develop their love of learning. For more information, please call Customer Support at (888) 678-4631 or visit www.tutortime.com.

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