

## From the Director

### Share Your Bright Horizons Experience with Friends & Save \$200

Year after year, we continue to welcome new families to our center. An interesting fact is that most of these excellent families tend hear about the center through you – our current Moms and Dads! Because so many are already spreading the word, we wanted to make it easier to reward you for bringing these great families to the center.

Now when you tell a friend about our center you can earn a \$200 tuition credit through our Family Referral Program. Simply invite other families to see all that we have to offer. If your friend enrolls full-time, you will receive a \$200 tuition credit (\$150 credit for part-time). If your friend enrolls they also save \$50 off their registration fee.

You can refer your friend [online through our referral website](#) or you can simply just tell them. Just remember that whomever they speak with at Bright Horizons, they need to mention they heard about the center through our Family Referral program. Please ask the director for more information on the Family Referral Program. We'd love to meet your friends!

This year we have a special offer for our families who are graduating from Kindergarten Prep and going off to school. Please see check your child's cubby or see Lisa for more details!



## Important Dates

**June 12: Pizza Day**

**June 17: Ron the Puppetman visits**

**June 21: Pajama Day**

**June 25: July Tuition due**

**June 27: Kindergarten Prep Graduation Day**

### Reminder

**CENTER CLOSED on July 4<sup>th</sup>**

## Summer Program

Summer Event Calendars will be out very soon! Just a few reminders to help keep everyone healthy and happy all summer long.

- Make sure to send in sunscreen if you have not already done so.
- Proper footwear is the best way to prevent injuries. Children should wear sneakers or shoes with secure straps. NO flip-flops please.
- On water play days make sure your child has a swimsuit, towel and water shoes here at the center.
- Sun hats are recommended as well.

Also, please remember to let us know when your child will be out on vacation. Have a wonderful summer!

# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

Wow we cannot believe it is almost June! As we say goodbye to May we also wish good luck to Cora in toddlers! We have a few new friends that joined the infant program this past month. Blake will be joining his friends in Infant 3 as well as Luciana and Everett in Infant 2. We would also like to welcome back Elliott to Infant 2. We are all very excited to have the nice weather and are excited to get out onto the new infant playground. If you have not done so yet, please bring in a summer hat and sunscreen for your child. (Forms are in the front lobby) We are looking forward to a great summer.

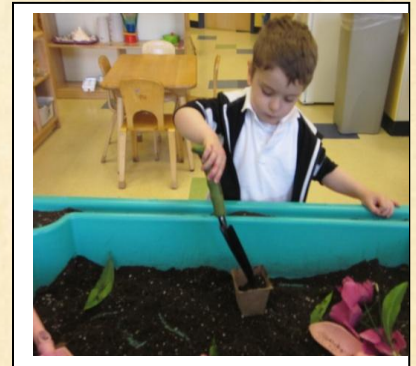


## Toddlers

*Sensory Exploration:* Toddlers had a blast during our Nature week. We made fun leaf handprints out of leaves that we found on our nature walk. We even collected all sorts of items for our sensory table like mulch, dirt, rocks, leaves, and even flowers! The toddlers loved learning all about different types of bugs, their favorite was the spider and ladybug 😊. Toddlers also enjoyed planting all the different plants that were bought for our flower beds on our playground. They each took turns planting basil, tomatoes, green beans, and even cilantro. Each day the toddlers check on their plants to make sure they are growing and getting plenty of water!

## Preschool

During our gardening unit I discussed with the children the parts of a plant, how plants grow, and why we plant them. Then we read the book Cecelia's Garden. After reading the book we decided to plant our own seeds. Each child used a trowel to scoop soil into a potting cup. When the cup was full they gently made a hole with their finger and placed the seed inside. They covered the seed and then used a watering can to saturate the soil. We placed the potting cups outside in our garden. The children have continued to check on the flowers and water them throughout the month.



## Kindergarten Prep

During the month of May we started a month long project of learning about caterpillars and their life cycle and to care for living creatures by actually having caterpillars in the classroom. The children had to learn to just watch them through their container as they are very delicate. In just a short week they ate a large amount of food and went from very tiny caterpillars to very large and long ones. They made their way to the top of the container and began to hang from it where they slowly made their chrysalis shells. While waiting for the butterflies to emerge we read books and watched a video about how butterflies actually make a chrysalis. We learned butterflies like to eat the juice from oranges so we cut a few slices and placed them in to the netting. We let out butterflies fly free, around our milkweed plants on the play ground, when they were strong enough to do so. They documented the changes in their journals.

# READY for SCHOOL News

## READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Beginning Geometry



Preschoolers develop early concepts of geometry as they manipulate shapes and become increasingly aware of spatial relationships.

Van Hiele's (1986) Levels of Geometric Thinking may help you understand the stages of development you will see in your child:

- Level 0 – Children learn to recognize geometric shapes by viewing them as a whole.
- Level 1 – Children learn individual characteristics of shapes such as “a triangle has three sides.”
- Level 2 – Children learn more complicated relationships between the characteristics of a shape – for instance, they may come to understand that a square is a rectangle because it has all the same properties of a rectangle.

Most preschoolers are operating at level 0. Children in the primary grades are typically at level 1. Providing children with opportunities to explore and experiment with shapes and their properties allows them to move through the stages, but movement is typically slow.

A few suggestions follow for activities and materials to encourage geometric thinking in young children:

- Block play is great for shape recognition. Children learn much just through their own spontaneous, independent block play. For example, the simple process of matching and sorting similar blocks at clean-up time builds geometric thinking. When you have time, asking open-ended questions may help to spur children's thinking to the next level. Ask questions such as:
  - “How is your block tower different from mine?”
  - “What will happen if I take out the bottom block?”
  - “Can you tell me what I need to do to make my block building look just like yours?”
  - “Can you put 2 blocks together and make another shape?”
  - “We are getting ready to clean up now – how will you remember what you built?”
- Make spatial vocabulary a regular part of the language you model for your child. Acting out stories such as “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” for example, offers numerous opportunities for children to show their understanding of “under,” “over,” “across,” “near,” “far,” etc.
- Ask shape questions as part of your play together. For example having shape blocks or cardboard or paper shapes available, ask “Have you seen this shape before?” “Where have you seen it?” “Can you find a shape like this in our home?” “Do you think this shape would roll or slide?” “Can we stack these shapes?” “Can you cut this paper to make another shape?” “Can you make a square (circle/triangle) with pipe cleaners/yarn?”

### Resources:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

van Hiele, P. M. (1986). *Structure and Insight: A theory of mathematics education*. Orlando, FL: Academic.

# Family Resources



## Introducing: Family Resources on BrightHorizons.com!

In addition to providing stimulating and loving environments for children to learn and thrive, at Bright Horizons we are proud to also provide an online community where families can connect with resources and share ideas. To further this effort, we have launched a brand new *Family Resources* area on BrightHorizons.com.



Family Resources has been designed to help you find parenting tips, education articles, learning activities and engage in conversations. It includes:

- **Learning at Home Activities:** A database of learning activities to provide during teachable moments that naturally emerge from everyday life situations, covering key developmental and academic areas including social skills, language acquisition, science, math, learning to read and more.
- **eFamily News Articles:** A weekly article providing advice, strategies, tips, resources and news about current parenting issues you may be facing.
- **Parenting Webinars:** A parenting video series designed for growing families with topics such as potty training, breastfeeding, child nutrition, early learning, and positive discipline.
- **Online Community:** A social network for parents and educators to share ideas, get perspectives and ask questions.
- **Parenting Blog:** Working parents share their everyday challenges to succeed professionally and personally.
- **Parenting Resources for Growing Children:** Parent resources and children's activities designed to help you continue your child's learning and discovery at home. Includes:
  - *Growing Readers*
  - *Growing Learners*
  - *Growing Scientists*
  - *Growing Givers*

Explore Family Resources today by visiting [www.brighthouse.com/family-resources](http://www.brighthouse.com/family-resources)!