

Crosby Center News

January 2015



From the Director

Greetings,

Happy New Year and Happy Winter! What a great season to get outside and play!

Snow, Ice, Sleet and Cold! Where is Mr. Jack Frost?

So if our children get too noisy, too rambunctious or too cranky coming off their 'sugar-high' of the holiday season, get outside!

One of the nice things about my position is that I get to wander throughout the center, frequently! This affords me the luxury of observing "Life at Crosby" in ways that I could not as a teacher assigned to one class. As I tour our center I am struck by the wonderful art displays that surround us! A simple trip down the hallway gives me 'goose bumps' as I stop to admire the art displays. Should you ever have a free moment do stop by our Art Studio poke around and experience the joy your children have created! What fun for our children to see their art work every day as they come and go to school, or run an errand with their teacher! Looking at all of these amazing displays tells me that not only do we have wonderfully creative children and teachers, but that development can be seen in so many ways. Just looking at these displays I can see the range of development from the Toddlers exploring water colors, to the more directed art work of the Kindergarten Prep Class!

Here Comes Tax Time

Our Tax ID #: 042949680. You'll want that to claim a dependent care deduction.

Important Dates

(any special events that your center may be hosting)

Thursday 1/1 - Center Closed- Happy New Year!

Friday 1/9-Make stone soup- preschool

Wednesday 1/14- Mr. Ron visits

Thursday 1/15- crazy hat day, (we will make at school)

Monday 1/19- Center Closed

Thursday 1/22-Parent group luncheon @ 12:00

Wednesday 1/28- PJ Day

Reasons to Celebrate

Jayden 1/5

Claire 1/28

Eva 1/6

Alex 1/29

Christian 1/17

Daniel 1/29

Nathan 1/23

Cassidy 1/24

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infants

As our youngest citizens, infants can begin to understand basic concepts that provide a foundation for becoming happy, contributing members of society.



Toddlers

Children at this age begin to develop a disposition that influences how they view the world and how they relate to others.

Preschool

Research tells us that people who have positive self identities and who feel they have value in the world are more successful in life.



Kindergarten Prep

Kindergarten prep children are becoming aware of the world and their ability to make an impact in it.

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Encouraging an Interest in Geography

Preschoolers are not too young to learn about geography. Like most areas, if you keep it fun and communicate your own interest in the topic, children will become excited and interested in learning more. As you may be talking about places children have not seen, any way you can keep it as concrete as possible will be helpful (i.e., use real objects and pictures whenever you can). Let your child's interests lead you. If you end up with a different topic than where you started, that is great! Here are some ideas:

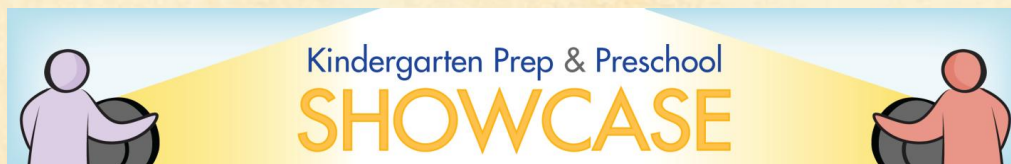
- An early stage in understanding geography is learning to use directional terminology. Regularly use directional words in talking to your child such as “next to,” “above,” “below,” “beside,” “right,” “left,” etc. Terms like “north,” “south,” “east,” and “west” may be a little too abstract for young children to comprehend.
- Let your child see you frequently using maps (even on your phone or electronic device) to decide your subway route or driving plans, to plan a vacation, etc.
- If you travel a lot as part of your work, have a map in your house and mark it with your child for each trip to show where you are traveling. Similarly, prior to your next family trip, mark the map when you travel together.
- On family trips, talk about how varying areas have different plants, animals, climates, terrain, etc. Talk about what is the same and different from where you live.
- When a book or TV program talks about a city, state or country your child is unfamiliar with, look it up on the map. Always have a map or atlas handy. You can also use the globe to find countries.
- Take a walk through your neighborhood or apartment building and create a map together with your child. Start with your house or apartment – talk about who lives next door and have your child draw that place if he is interested. Add favorite landmarks like playgrounds, a restaurant he likes to visit, his early care and education center, your workplace, or other places you visit frequently. Label the landmarks – you can write the letters and have your child copy them, or your child can use invented spelling to create the labels. Remember that the “doing” or the process of the activity is much more important than the accuracy and the final product.

There are many excellent children's atlases which use mostly pictures rather than words to describe areas of the world; we especially like *National Geographic Kids: The United States Atlas* or *Children's World Atlas* from DK Publishing. Consider purchasing one for a special birthday gift.

Bright Horizons News



See How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten – and Beyond!



Explore with us your child's NEXT classroom during our Kindergarten Prep and Preschool Showcase. This event offers families the opportunity to get a sneak peek to the next stage of education with Bright Horizons.

During the event, our teachers will be sharing classroom activities highlighting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematic) learning, offering ways in which families can extend STEM learning at home with your child.

Our Kindergarten Prep and Preschool Showcase event offers a chance to:

- Experience your child's NEXT classroom
- Engage in activities focused on STEM learning
- Meet with our teachers and be inspired by their love of education
- Connect with other families in your Bright Horizons community

To learn more about the Kindergarten Prep and Preschool Showcase event at your center, talk to your center director, or child's teacher. We look forward to you joining us during this family event, be on the lookout for your personal family invitation!



Parent Survey Coming Out This Month!

We value our families' input, and so we will be sending out the annual Parent Survey in early January.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Its purpose is to gauge our families' satisfaction and thoughts on a variety of topics. Your responses directly benefit our center and provide us with feedback on how we can better serve you!

The link to the survey will be open through Friday, February 6. Thank you in advance!