

Bright Horizons at Bedford

June 2013



From the Director

Dear Families,

We want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt THANKS to all of our parent partners who dedicated time and resources to making this year's Teacher Appreciation Month a *huge success!*

Thanks to your generous efforts, the teachers enjoyed special events that included manicures, massages, luncheons, gift baskets, and personalized books with special messages from children & families. Most of all, the teachers enjoyed having this special time dedicated to showing how much they are truly appreciated!

As we head into Summer, I just also want to say thank you to all of you for being so welcoming during my time here at Bright Horizons at Bedford. Heather is excited to return to the Director role in July, and I will be moving on to my new Director role at Bright Horizons at Biogen. I have loved my time working with you and your families, and I wish you all the best!

~Kay

Important Dates

June 17 – *More Than Spanish* summer sessions begins

June 24 – Summer Adventures program begins

June 25 – Tuition is Due

Coming up in July and August....

- Welcome back Heather July 1!
- Quarterly Parent Partnership Meeting TBD in August
- Annual Family BBQ August 7th

Links to Use



www.facebook.com/brighthorizons



www.twitter.com/brighthorizons



blogs.brighthorizons.com/momtomom



www.brighthorizons.com/community

Reasons to Celebrate

We welcome Heather back from her maternity leave July 1!

We have some special anniversaries to celebrate this month!

Please join us in congratulating

- Ms. Leslie for 16 years!
- Ms Sabrina for 14 years!

Classroom Highlights



Summer Program

Summer is finally here! And, we are excited about all the new project topics planned for this year's Summer Camp Program! We will be scheduling in house guests or field trips once a week for our summer campers. Some of our exciting highlights include visits from Michelle's Menagerie's animal education program, Mad Science's "Up, Up, and Away Show", a Magic Show, and Music & Entertainment of Amy Conley! Please let us know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to summer fun!

Annual Family BBQ: Save-the-Date!

It's that time of year! We are happy to announce the date of our annual family Barbecue at Bright Horizons at Bedford! More details to come as we get closer to the event, but please be sure to save the date of **August 7th** (rain date August 14th) and plan to join our Bright Horizons at Bedford community in this summer celebration.

Did you know? Policy on Schedules & Changes:

As your family plans for summer schedules, please be aware of our policy on schedule changes. Families are required to give one month's notice in writing of any reductions in children's contracted schedules. And, if you must adjust your child's scheduled arrival or departure time for any one day, this change must be approved in advance. Please see your enrollment agreement for more details, and let us know if you have questions. We thank you for following these policies as they assure we are best prepared to provide a safe and caring environment for all children and families.

Welcomes and Goodbyes – Faculty Members

Welcome to Infant Teacher, Joanna, who transferred to our center from Bright Horizons at Crosby!

We will be saying goodbye to Kay as we welcome Heather back to her Director role.

We wish Ms. Elaine a great summer as she takes this time off to spend time with her family and best of luck to Ms. Rhianna as she heads out on maternity leave in June!

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!