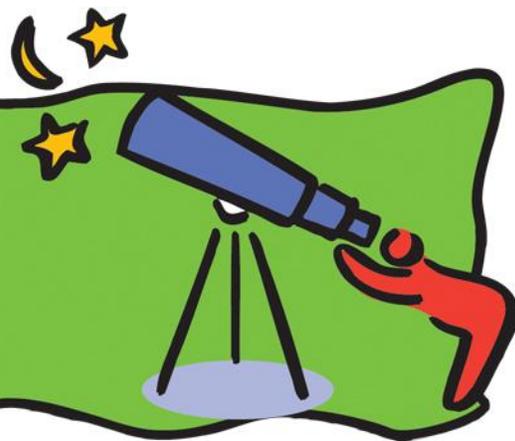


Lexington News

Bright Horizons at Lexington

April 2011



April 22 is EARTH DAY

Take time to talk with children about the importance of protecting the earth and find ways as a family to practice the three Rs: Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Many towns and cities will be hosting events to celebrate Earth Day, visit your local Web sites to find the events in your area.

Notes from Jess...

April is Teacher Appreciation Month:

- There is a pot luck sign up at the sign in computer for the faculty appreciation lunches. We appreciate any and all donations!
- The center is hosting NAEYC survey breakfast on April 28th. While you take a moment to fill out the survey we will have materials available for the children to make a card for their Teacher.
- Another way to show your appreciation is to post a comment at www.brighthorizons.com/EmployeeAppreciation.

Week of the Young Child (April 11-15):

- On Tuesday, April 12th the center is having a pajama day for the children. We will be providing pancake lunch with fruit and yogurt.
- On Friday, April 15th the center is having an ice cream social for snack. Vanilla frozen yogurt with sprinkles and whipped cream will be served!
- Please join us in our celebration of Week of the Young Child by providing a page for our What's in a Name project. We are asking for contributions by Friday, April 22nd.

Other Important Dates to Note:

The center will be closed for Patriot's Day on Monday, April 18th.

Our next Parent Representative Meeting is on Wednesday, April 27th.

April Faculty Anniversaries:

Mary Bongiovi has been with our center for one year.

Cheryl Tassinari has been with our center for four years.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the Lexington center!



Here are some highlights from our classrooms this month:

Infant:

The infants explored many textures in their sensory tables this month. Sand, oats, water and cornmeal were a few of the mediums they used to explore with their senses.

Toddler:

This month, our Toddler program brought Science Rocks to life by exploring potting soil. They had it in their sensory tables and are moving to the next level by planting a garden outside of Toddler 5. Our toddlers were also very interested in cooking. Friendship soup and grilled cheese sandwiches are a few of the dishes our toddler chefs concocted this month.

Preschool:

Our Preschool 1 classroom was excitedly learning about birds this month. They studied what is happening on the playground as well as creating “bird’s nests” in their classroom. Preschool 2 created a camping tent out of a large box and then took turns sitting inside of it. Flashlights and a pretend fire completed the “camping” experience. Preschool 3 brought nature into their classroom while experimenting with flowers and seeing how they change with water colors added to the petals. Pre-K focused on the dramatic with centers that included a fire station and a veterinarian’s office.



Parents Play a Role in Encouraging Math and Science

Recent research emphasizes the important role that parents can play in encouraging children's interest in math and science. A joint study by Penn State and the University of Michigan and another by the University of California, Santa Cruz, indicated that parents play a major role in determining whether their children continue an interest in math and science past the middle school years. Not surprisingly, some gender differences were found. Parents did more to encourage their sons in math and science than their daughters. Furthermore, if fathers held gender-stereotypical views of boys and girls (i.e., held the view that boys prefer and are better at science and math than girls), the less interested their daughters were in math or science.

While these studies were focused on older children, attitudes about math and science start early. There is much that parents can do in the preschool years to encourage interest in these areas. Here are a few suggestions:

- Encourage scientific inquiry. While it is important to provide answers to your child's questions, also frequently ask your child, "What do you think?" to show that her opinion matters and to encourage her to think things through.
- Use opportunities throughout the day to build math skills. During waiting times in the car or in the doctor's office, make up easy and fun word problems. "There were only five leaves left on the tree. Two fell off. Now how many were left?"
- Talk about how things work and encourage your child to ask questions and share his opinions. Discuss how cars work, how plants grow, how our bodies work, etc.
- When you purchase toys and materials, look for:
 - books that encourage exploration and discovery (consider Stephen Biesty's books showing the cross-sections of how things work) or children's cookbooks where children can follow a pictorial recipe with help from you
 - open-ended interconnecting building materials (like Legos or marble rolls) that encourage creativity and experimentation with gravity, balance, and how things fit together
 - open-ended materials like play dough, sand, or water which encourage experimentation ("What happens when the sand gets wet?"; "How many straws can I stick in this little piece of play dough?").

It is always important to keep it fun and interesting and avoid drill and drudgery. Remember that your interest matters. And if you aren't that interested in science or math yourself, take the opportunity to learn something new with your child or find a family member or friend with a math/science interest that your child could spend time with.

Reference: Cavanaugh, S. (October 24, 2007). When it Comes to Math and Science, Mom and Dad Count. *Education Week*.



April is Employee Appreciation Month



Welcome to Employee Appreciation month! Each year we take time during the month of April to celebrate and recognize all of our employees that make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families. This year we are thrilled to be celebrating Bright Horizons' 25th Anniversary. As part of our celebration we'd like to ask you to help us recognize the dedicated Bright Horizons staff whose contributions make a difference in your child's life or that of your family.

Our popular Employee Appreciation Website www.brighthouse.com/employeeappreciation gives you the opportunity to share messages of "thanks" with your child's teacher. **The Website will be available April 4 – 29.**



We have developed several resources to help families cultivate the love of books, explore fun activities together, and find great parenting tips and ideas. Check out www.brighthouse.com/growing — our Web site for families.