

Bright Horizons at Waltham

June 2013



From the Director

Thank you for all the wonderful contributions to our *Teacher Appreciation Month*. The teachers are still enjoying all the notes surrounding their photos and names out in the lobby!! The amazing brunch items that you provided were very yummy!! And course, we all love flowers, especially when they're delivered by our favorite little people!!

I would also like to thank all of our families who made our *Elegant Art Gallery* such an amazing event. Many thanks to all of our child artists, who did such wonderful work. And to Kate, our Art Studio Teacher, and all the teachers who inspired and supported them in artistic exploration! Kate did an amazing job setting up and displaying all the wonderful creations made by your children!! Thanks again Kate!!!

Sincerely,

Alice



Important Dates

Saturday, June 1st, 2013 – Join us for this very special event to learn more about our *Well Aware* curriculum with healthy snacks and special gardening and dancing activities! This event will run from 10am-12pm.

June 18th, 2013 – *Kindergarten Prep Graduation* starts at 4-5:30pm in the *Movement Matters Zone*. We wish all the graduates and their families luck in their new schools!

June 24th, 2013 – Summer Program begins!

Reasons to Celebrate

Birthdays

Chase C.	June 5 th
June	June 6 th
Vivienne	June 7 th
Lauren	June 8 th
Krishna	June 12 th
Emma	June 23 rd
Faith	June 28 th
Matthew	June 29 th
Natalie	June 29 th

Staff Birthdays

Duni June 1st

New Staff

Welcome to Danielle in Preschool and Emily in Toddlers!

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infant 1

This month in Infant One we used our hands to practice grasping the balls as we rolled them back and forth to our teachers and friends. We have developed lots of interest in different types of music and we have also listened to stories, rhymes, and sing-a-longs. We have practiced moving our bodies to the music that we love the most! Together as a class, we grew herbs and plants, and we really enjoyed this because we got to examine dirt very closely! All of our infants have enjoyed conquering the climber again. We have had many opportunities to climb to the top with support from our teachers. We have also worked on understanding object permanence by playing peek-a-boo while hiding behind toys and books!



Infant 2

In May we have had a few new friends join our class: Charlie, Saanchi, & Ellie. We would like to welcome them and their families! We focused on Fine and Gross Motor activities this month. We have had the slide out quite a bit. Ava, Nico, Logan, and Charlie have all figured out how to get to the top using their creative imaginations. Ellie seemed to enjoy making her mommy a Mother's Day gift using her footprints, while the other children used their handprints to make their Mother's Day gifts. Caleb and Saanchi have been using their large leg muscles and the ballet bar to practice pulling themselves up onto their knees or up to a standing position.



Infant 3

Hello Parents! ☺ This past month we have worked on color recognition. Each week while we talked about all colors, we focused on specific colors for special activities. Each week we picked a specific color and put a variety of toys to be explored in the nest. Our art projects consisted of different textured materials with each week's specific color paint as well. With the warm weather here we have been very lucky to get outside. We all have explored the sand box while our older infants have also practiced walking by pushing the push-toys all around the playground.



Toddler 1

This month the toddlers have been busy creating lots of beautiful art. They made jellyfish, kites, birdfeeders, Earths, collages, butterflies, and ladybugs. They experimented with using stencils and rulers to create shapes. Each child has been working on using their sorting and discriminating skills while sorting objects by color and size. The children have also learned about opposites. The Language Works Area has been a busy place this month with stories about cars and animals being the favorites. They love to read Go Away, Big Green Monster, and Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See? Some of the favorite class songs are *Who Came to School Today*, *Five Little Monkeys*, and *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep*. We also have five geese that have taken up residence across the street from the center and the children love to watch them and talk about where they go when they are not there. Many interesting conversations have stemmed from this flying family!



Classroom Highlights



Toddler 2

This month we explored different textures. We learned about hard, soft, rough, and slimy textures. We explored the sand paper and colored on it to see how difficult it is to color on rough surface. We worked on our hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills by painting with corn syrup and food coloring, while at the same time exploring the sticky texture of syrup. We also worked on a very messy project: *Mud Exploration*. All our friends showed a very special interest in it. We used soil and water and mixed them together and felt the slimy and rough texture between our fingers. While doing so we used social and spatial relation skills to take turns and share the environment. For our last texture exploration session we explored and tasted whipped cream with food coloring. We all clapped with whip cream in our hands and painted on the table and saw how the red food coloring covered the white whipped cream. We had quite a messy but very fun month!



Toddler 3

This month in Toddler 3 we engaged in a cooking theme for our curriculum. As a group we used many different ingredients and tools to make mini muffins, bagel pizzas, and cupcakes. We took turns using measuring cups to add ingredients into a large bowl then mix it all together. Once our treats were baked we had the chance to eat them for snack time! We are quite the group of little bakers!

Toddler 4

This month we focused on environmental science. The children all seemed very interested when we went outside on our nature walk. When walking around the playground we looked for things on the ground such as leaves, sticks, rocks, flowers, and pieces of mulch. The children used the leaves and sticks to paint with. We also created a painting by shaking rocks and paint in a box. Everyone had a chance to plant their own flowers in a small flower pot. We have been watering them and continue to check on them every once in a while to see if anything has bloomed yet. We can't wait to see what grows!



Toddler 5

This month in Toddler 5 we have been bug explorers! Our friends have learned to identify many of the creepy crawlers we see every day on our playground. Our favorite books have been The Very Busy Spider and Ten Tiny Tadpoles. Friends used pictures from Ten Tiny Tadpoles to retell the story in their own ways on our classroom felt board. The toddlers also created tie-dyed May flowers and cool earthworm art with glue, sand, and yarn. We learned about rhythm and music by playing a big drum together as a group. Our favorite songs this month were *There are Seven Days in a Week* and *Where is Thumbkin?*



Classroom Highlights



Preschool 1

This month we have spent time studying and learning about many different types of animals. We participated in a *Math Counts* activity in which we sorted multi-colored farm animals by color using sorting cards. For *Language Works* we read many animal related stories such as *Bark George*, *Old McDonald Had a Dragon*, and *A Kid's Best Friend*. For *Science Rocks* we spent a lot of time studying clouds. We used our scientific inquiry skills to make observations about the clouds outside our classroom window. For *Art Smart* the children used their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination to create animals out of play dough by using animal shaped cookie cutters. Finally for *Movement Matters*, we participated in group games which supported gross motor development such as "Doggy Doggy Where's Your Bone" and "Five Little Horses."



Preschool 2

In our classroom we have been working on our *Math Counts* curriculum by measuring and pouring. The children were provided with a small pitcher of orange juice, small cups, and popsicle sticks. The children were asked to fill their cups to the line in the middle of the cup to measure half. After they poured the juice into the cups they stuck the sticks in them to make an ice pop. We also made cupcakes. Before the cooking activity the children helped read the box to see what ingredients they were going to need. After they read the ingredients list, the children helped pour the mix into the bowl, and then put in the eggs, water, and oil. After all the ingredients were in the bowl the children took turns stirring it all together.

Kindergarten Prep

Our Author of the Month is Eric Carle. We have read many books that he has written such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Very Busy Spider*, and *Pancakes, Pancakes!* For the letter W we did a cooking activity where we made waffles. A group of children helped measure, pour, and stir the ingredients for the waffles. The class also helped make butter to go with our waffles. The children used their large muscles to shake the jar of butter. We then ate our yummy waffles at lunch. We have been preparing for our upcoming graduation by practicing some songs that we will be singing during the ceremony.



Art Studio

The children have been hard at work in the Art Studio during the month of May and we were so happy to display their wonderful art creations at the Elegant Art Gallery. Since the Gallery, the Kindergarten Prep students have been learning about the life of American Artist Georgia O'Keeffe and have been painting detailed flowers and sketching animal bones just like Georgia loved to draw and paint things from nature! The preschoolers have been working on experimental glue and paint creations as well as creating "stained glass windows," like architect and artist Frank Lloyd Wright, using tissue paper and contact paper. Similarly, the toddlers have been experimenting with sticky paper and tissue paper.

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.

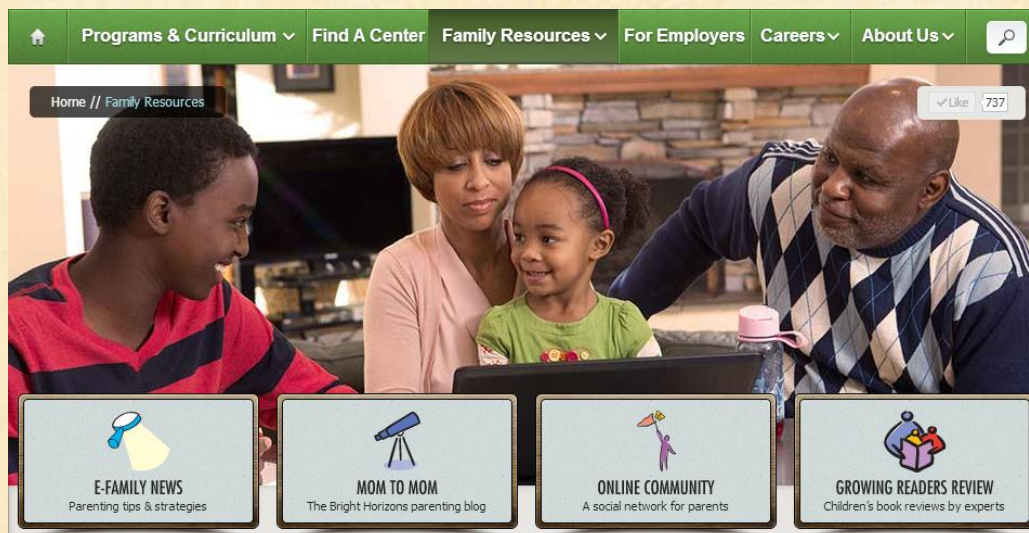
van Hiele, P. M. (1986). *Structure and Insight: A theory of mathematics education*. Orlando, FL: Academic.

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*

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