

Bright Horizons at Mount Prospect

April 2014



From the Director

Children are born scientists: Programmed to investigate, experiment, and discover how the world works. The Science Rocks curriculum helps foster this process of discovery as it explores the broad scope of scientific disciplines, from physics, to chemistry, to earth science. This is done through intentional experiences, meaningful conversations, and enriched environments to help children become skilled observers, inquisitive investigators, and life-long researchers. It is through these experiences, that the children will have the opportunities to make queries, test hypotheses, investigate properties, explore scientific phenomenon, and make profound discoveries. This month all of the classes will be testing out their big questions and analyzing their data through many hands on activities as we have our Earth Day Celebration and Kindergarten Prep/Kindergarten Science Fair this month.

Important Dates

April 3– Parent Partnership Group

Conference Call – 12:30 PM-1:00 PM- Please join us to find out how you can help out during upcoming events. The call in number is 888-886-4283, pin number 7083955866.

April 7- April 11- Week of the Young Child-

We will have different activities set up for each day to foster children's Learning Through Play

April 21-April 25 – Open House Week –

Come in with a friend to see our center in action from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

April 22- Earth Day Celebration – Come join

us for some Earth Friendly activities from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

April 25 - Kindergarten Prep/Kindergarten

Science Fair – Come see how Science comes alive for our Kindergarten Prep/kindergarten children from 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

May 2014: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

(see page 4 for more information)

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infants The children this month will be increasing their vocabularies through puppet shows and flannel board stories. Blocks will be used to explore math concepts such as on/off, counting, balancing, and short/tall. Infants will also use their senses as they explore sand and oatmeal in the sensory tub.



Toddlers Language skills will be increased this month in the Toddler room as the children expand their sign language to include transportation vehicles. Counting will be taking place throughout the day as the children count steps, blocks, vehicles, and everything else around them. Exploration of the different types of transportation vehicles and cooking projects will have the toddlers learning about tires, and different foods.

Young Preschool The Young Preschoolers will be working on their prewriting skills as they develop their pincer grip when holding writing utensils. Sorting and size order will be explored using a variety of different objects for Math Counts. Then Science Rocks experiments will have the children testing volume, textures, and the different types of weather outside.



Preschool The children will be working on recognizing and spelling their last names using their Handwriting Without Tears skills. Everyday Math activities will have the children measuring and graphing different objects and topics. In the Science Lab the children will be learning about their body and their 5 senses as well as watching their caterpillars turn to butterflies.

Classroom Highlights



Kindergarten Prep The children will be using their Handwriting Without Tears skills to focus on writing their lower case letters. Everyday Math activities will have the Kindergarten Prep children creating complex patterns and counting to 100. In the Science Lab the children will be exploring the many signs of Spring, plants, and their caterpillars turning to butterflies.



Kindergarten As the Kindergarteners increase their reading skills, they will also continue to write their own stories and paragraphs to share with each other. Everyday math activities will have the children continuing their study of time and fractions. In the Science Lab the children's plants and insects will be finishing up as their caterpillars turn to butterflies and their plants get planted into the garden outside. Then explorations will take the children to learn about the planets and different types of architecture.



Art This month for art the children will be creating art projects that deal with nature. They will paint, draw, and make collages using plants, flowers, and other material that are found in nature. They will also be investigating about different famous artists that use nature as their inspiration.



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Learning to Count

Teaching children to count may seem like an easy task, but there are actually many components to this seemingly simple task which evolve over time. For example:

- The first step in counting is typically “rote counting”, or memorizing the names and order of the numbers. Often children are able to do this before age three; however, this does not mean that children understand the concepts behind the numbers. Numerical concepts follow later.
- To count higher than nine, children need to understand that a new “decade” begins and what that decade is called. In English, the “teen” numbers are the hardest to learn because they have somewhat random names. It would be easier if after ten, you had “oneteen, twoteen, threeteen” instead of “eleven, twelve, thirteen.” This requires children to memorize the numbers and sequence and this takes time. Another challenge is remembering the name of the new decade. We have all heard a child pause after counting to 29 and then say “50!” Car rides and other waiting times are good times to practice counting, but keep it light and fun and change activities when your child loses interest. You want to keep your child interested and motivated to learn to count, not turned off to numbers.
- One-to-one correspondence is another important concept for children to master. This means that a child links each number to an additional object. Initially children may count and skip items or touch more than one item as they say a number name. For practice in one-to-one correspondence, ask children to set the table and count as they put one napkin at each place, one spoon at each place, etc.
- Keeping track of what was counted is another important component to one-to-one correspondence. For correct counting, children have to have a method for remembering which items they already counted and not counting one item multiple times. A child can use the correct number sequence and use one-to-one correspondence, but still get the incorrect answer, if he counts an item more than once. Introduce methods for keeping track such as counting objects into sections of an egg carton, having your child put only one object in each section as she counts. Or use a piece of paper with a line drawn down the middle. Start with all of the objects to the left of the line. Have your child move objects to the right of the line as they are counted.
- Parents sometimes wonder whether using fingers to count is a good skill to teach. For many children, finger counting may be an excellent way for them to practice one-to-one correspondence (one finger per object).
- Reading counting books together may be another low-key way to reinforce counting concepts. There are lots available – a few suggestions are Anno’s Counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno, Teeth, Tails and Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book by Christopher Wormell, Duckie’s Ducklings: A one-to-one counting book by Frances Barry and Corduroy’s Day: A Counting Book by Don Freeman.

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

Bright Horizons News



Join Bright Horizons in Celebrating Earth Day on April 22

Mark your calendars – April 22nd is Earth Day!



We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. We have many suggestions for green projects on our new [Bright Horizons Going Green board](#) on Pinterest. Small changes can lead to a big impact! So remember to bring your reusable bag to the store, plant a flower with your child, or bring in some supplies from home for your center to reuse for an art project.

Interested in learning more about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our eFamily news article: [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

However you choose to celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful Earth Day.

Help a Friend Discover Bright Horizons during our Spring Open House Week!



This April we will be hosting an Open House Week for families to learn more about our programs.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining the Bright Horizons family, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them! See Center Director for details.

COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month



Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month is coming!

Each year, we take the month of May to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families. Please mark your calendars!