

Bright Horizons at Mount Prospect

May 2013



From the Director

Physical health and development are as critical to a child's learning ability as any other area of development. Our Well Aware component to the World at Their Fingertips curriculum creates an environment that promotes this. Well Aware provides opportunities for the children in the center to develop the ability to make good choices that will build a foundation for lifelong good health and positive self image.

In our Infant room Well Aware is shown through the many different large motor activities such as rolling over, crawling, climbing and walking. It also is shown by trying new foods, enjoying mealtimes, having prime times with the teachers, and learning to communicate their needs.

As the children grow, they begin to refine and strengthen their small and large muscles through exercise and other activities like soccer, relay races, and riding scooters and bikes. Through activities and events such as cooking projects, taste tests, and family style dining the children learn about different foods and healthy eating habits.

The children learn about hygiene by proper handwashing, covering sneezes and coughs. Self help skills are practiced by learning to put on their own coats, zippering zippers, and cleaning up after play and mealtimes. Safety is also practiced by having the children follow simple safety rules and learning how to keep ourselves safe during play and at home.

Important Dates

May 6-May 31- Teacher appreciation website open. Leave a note of appreciation for your child's teacher. Website: <http://appreciation.brighthouse.com>

May 10 – Lovely Ladies Snack: a special snack for the Lovely Ladies in our lives. 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

May 15 – Parent Seminar: Create a Reading Culture at Home 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

May 16 – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: This parent sponsored luncheon will take place during the teachers' lunch break

May 29 – Well Aware Event: Come join us for an information and fun filled event to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Classroom Highlights



Infants The Infants have been using more and more sign language to communicate their wants to their teachers and each other. They have been signing “more, all done, milk, please, and thank you.” Math Counts exploration has been taking place by the children experimenting with shapes and sizes. The Infants manipulate the rings of the ring stacker to see how each of the rings fit onto the base to create the finished stack.



Toddlers The Toddlers have been exploring and experimenting with different textures in their projects. They have used sensory bags to manipulate gel like substances into different shapes and patterns; sand to dig, scoop, and pour; as well as creating different types of play dough to mold with our hands. In art, we experimented with paint by painting with brushes, spatulas, fingers, and pipe cleaners. Outdoors we will be digging, planting and observing the plants and flowers that are growing around us.

Two Year Olds The children have been learning about how to take care of the earth by planting flowers and seeds, making their own paper from used paper, and creating art projects with recycled materials. The Two Year Olds then went on to learn about all of the people in the community that help us like the fire fighters, police officers, postal carriers, and grocers to name a few.



Preschool The children have using the Handwriting without Tears materials to continue to write their names, letters, and even started trying to write some words. During Everyday Math activities the children have examined classification and sorting skills by recognizing same, different, length, and size. Our project for the past month has been observing, tracking, and understanding the life cycle of butterflies. We followed our 11 caterpillars from the caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa), to butterfly (adult) stages.

Classroom Highlights



Prekindergarten We have been using our Handwriting without Tears Journals to write words, short sentences, and illustrating pictures. We also finished writing and illustrating our second classroom book. Through Everyday Math activities we have been demonstrating our knowledge of numbers, matching items by more than one characteristic, creating and following detailed patterns, and sorting sets. We have become familiar with the properties of living things as we have been studying the life cycle of butterflies and composting with worms. To aid in our studies we have been using specific tools such as magnifying glasses, eye droppers, and colored paddles to conduct our observations.



Kindergarten The Kindergarten's Handwriting without Tears skills have been utilized to help them write their second book to be published. This book has gone through the brainstorming, writing, editing, rewriting, and illustrating process before we send it off to be published and sold to our families. Our mathematical skills have been stretched as we use Everyday Math activities to demonstrate our knowledge of telling time, skip counting by 5 and 10, and fractions. Along with our study of the life cycle of butterflies we are also investigating composting with red worms.

Art Art classes this month will be exploring and creating activities using elements from nature. Some of the activities will include making nature prints with flowers and leaves on canvas, creating with clay using different standard tools and natural items, and creating a "stained glass" piece from items we find outside. We will draw our inspiration for our art pieces from nature by creating them outside on our playgrounds.



What is School Readiness?



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: What does School Readiness Really Mean?

A report that grew out of a partnership of 17 states identified five factors most important in children who are ready for school or what the report calls “Ready Children”. These factors included:

- **Overall physical well-being and motor development:** Children possessing age-appropriate fine motor skills which involve coordinating their eyes and hands to complete tasks such as stacking blocks; putting together puzzles; connecting building toys like Legos®; drawing and using a paint brush; or writing, typically experience success in school.
- **Social and emotional development:** Children who interact positively with other children typically also do well in a school setting. Many of the skills children learn from their families and in child care such as taking turns, sharing, listening to others, developing empathy, and functioning as part of a group, help with school success.
- **Approaches to Learning:** The ability to follow through on one-step directions (“Hang up your coat”) or multi-step directions (“Get some crayons, take them to the writing table and have a seat”) is another school readiness indicator. Cooperativeness, persistence, independence, curiosity and creativity are also important.
- **Cognition and General Knowledge:** Developing an observant, inquisitive mind which looks at, labels, asks questions, notes similarities and differences, and solves problems is another important school skill.
- **Language Development and Literacy:** The development of a significant talking (expressive) and understanding (receptive) vocabulary is important as well as later recognizing the relationships between letters and sounds.

Not surprisingly, only one of these factors, recognizing the connection between letters and their sounds, is what we typically think of as a school readiness skill. Instead, a well-rounded child who interacts well with others, follows directions, effectively uses her hands to manipulate small parts, and has an inquisitive mind, possesses key readiness skills.

Also not surprisingly, the report states that families can play a critical role in preparing their children for school success is by reading to them daily, starting when children are infants and toddlers. Enrollment in high quality child care programs is another factor in school success.

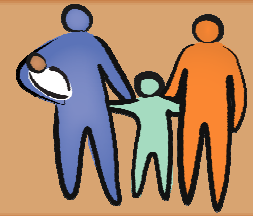
For more information, you won’t want to miss the May 7th webinar, **Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs** with Ellen Galinsky. This session will provide even further insight into the key school and life readiness skills that may be less familiar to parents. To register, please visit www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking.

Families and teachers working together can help ensure that all our children are *READY for SCHOOL*.

Reference: *Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative – A 17 State Partnership*.

(February 2005). Sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Parent Webinar Series



JOIN US for our next Parent Webinar!

MIND in the Making

Bright Horizons, in conjunction with Families and Work Institute invites you to join Ellen Galinsky for our next parent webinar about the skills adults and children need in order to succeed in the 21st century.

**Mind in the Making: Executive Function and the Seven Essential Life Skills
Every Child Needs
Tuesday, May 7, 2013
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. EST**

For over a decade, Ms. Galinsky has worked with top researchers from across the country, filming their experiments and studying their results how we learn best. In her recently released highly acclaimed best selling book, *Mind in the Making* (Harper Collins 2010), she identifies seven life skills that are essential to success—in school, the workforce and in life.

During the webinar, Ellen will outline the meaning and importance of Executive Function of the brain and why they underlie Life Skills, describe the seven essential Life Skills, as well as provide parents with easy everyday things they can do to foster these Life Skills in their children and themselves. Attendees will see videos of researchers “in action” sharing studies on the topic, and gain the ability to apply what is presented not only to parenting techniques but adult learning as well. In addition, 5 lucky webinar attendees will receive a free copy of *Mind in the Making*.

To register for this webinar, please visit www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking.

Presenter Bio: Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute (FWI)

*Ellen Galinsky helped establish the field of work and family life while at Bank Street College of Education, where she was on the faculty for twenty-five years. Her more than forty-five books and reports include the highly acclaimed *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, *Ask The Children* and the now classic *The Six Stages of Parenthood*. She has published over 125 articles in academic journals, books and magazines. At the Families and Work Institute, she oversees the largest nationally representative studies of the U.S. workforce and workplace.*

Ms. Galinsky holds a Master of Science degree in Child Development/Education from Bank Street College of Education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Study from Vassar College and numerous honorary doctoral degrees. She is a past President of the National Association of the Education of Young Children. Ellen Galinsky is married to artist Norman Galinsky, and they are the parents of two grown children: Philip and Lara.

Connect with Bright Horizons



Did you know... Bright Horizons has a new website! Visit our new **Family Resources** page to access resources for growing families including: parent webinar archives, eFamily news articles, learning at home activities and more!

Check out our Facebook page for your chance to ‘Discover Family Resources and Win’ an iPad mini! (Contest ends 5/3)