

## From the Director

**Family Partnership Meeting**  
**March 27, 2013**  
**5:15-6:15**  
**Child Care Provided**

A cornerstone of high quality child care is the partnership created between parents and the center. It is a partnership based on mutual respect and concern about the needs of the child and the center. With this in mind, I would like to invite you to our first monthly family partnership meeting. Please join us with questions, suggestions and ideas.

If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Jen or Cheryl by Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let us know if child care will be needed!

## Links to Use



[www.facebook.com/brighthorizons](http://www.facebook.com/brighthorizons)



[www.twitter.com/brighthorizons](http://www.twitter.com/brighthorizons)



[blogs.brighthorizons.com/momtomom](http://blogs.brighthorizons.com/momtomom)



[www.brighthorizons.com/community](http://www.brighthorizons.com/community)

## Important Dates

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Waffle Day – to celebrate National Breakfast Week, Miss Virginia will be here to make us her famous waffles!

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead!

March 12<sup>th</sup> – World Wide Purple Out 2 Event – **wear purple today** to show your support for The Izzy Foundation. Visit [www.theizzyfoundation.org](http://www.theizzyfoundation.org) for more information!

March 21<sup>st</sup> – First Day of Spring! – bring in a flower to add to our Welcome Spring vase

March 25<sup>th</sup> – Tuition is Due!

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Parent Partnership Meeting

## From The Nurse

As we excitedly approach the first day of spring, time spent outdoors will likely increase throughout the upcoming months. As parents, we often remember to encourage our children to wear bicycle helmets; however this often presents a challenge to parents when children are resistant to long-term helmet use.

Attached is a link to an interesting article from [healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org) titled "How to Get Your Child to Wear a Bicycle Helmet". In this article, one can find helpful hints and tips on supporting and promoting bicycle helmet safety.

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/pages/How-To-Get-Your-Child-To-Wear-a-Bicycle-Helmet.aspx>

# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

*Math Counts* in Infants Too! Although it may seem surprising, mathematical concepts are an important part of an infant's early learning. The teachers in the Infant room enhance this learning by providing materials such as nesting cups and large soft blocks to stack. As the teachers play with the children and repeat words such as "up" and "under" they are actually encouraging the exploration of spatial relations.



## Toddlers

"Robot # 1" by High Five is a favorite song in the Toddler Room. When Miss Jessica plays the song, everyone dances like robots. Because of this, the teachers added collenders to the classroom to make "robot arms". Using both open ended and representational props is a great way for the toddlers to engage in Dance/Creative Movement and Dramatic Art!



## Twos

Caution! The dramatic play area in Toddler 3 was transformed into a construction zone! Miss Danielle added a pounding board and hammer to the classroom and the construction began. The teachers added a woodworking bench and real tools for the children to explore. As one of their *Math Counts* activities the children used a measuring tape to measure objects around the room. As they measured they identified the numbers on the measuring tape.



## Preschool

Relationships and team work have been the evolving topic in Preschool. One of the ways the teachers had the children work on their collaborative and problem solving skills was through a pizza game. During a group time, the class discussed their favorite ingredients that made up a pizza. Each child was given a card with an ingredient. With the guidance of Miss Elisa and Miss Luisa, they had to find friends with different ingredients to make up a complete pizza. This activity was *Language Works* in action because children had to engage in conversation to come up with a conclusion!



## Kindergarten Prep

Kindergarten Prep has been exploring the style of the famous children's author and illustrator Eric Carle. The classroom has been rich with learning, encapsulating all of the interest areas. After reading many books in his collection, the children wrote book reports. They studied his artistic style and created a canvas with tissue paper and glue, the same way he illustrates his books. As a math activity the children graphed the fruits from The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Science was even included as they discussed how Eric Carle uses animals and creatures from the Earth as the main characters of his stories.



# READY for SCHOOL



## Problem Solving

The ability to solve problems independently is an essential life skill. As parents, it is easy (and almost always quicker) for us to try to solve problems for our children. However, giving our child enough uninterrupted time to solve a problem independently or with help is an important skill for success in school and life.

Certainly, there are lots of problems that, due to the busy nature of our lives, can't be solved at the moment or must be solved with help; but when there is the luxury of time, we should take advantage of it.

Some sample problems a preschooler might face:

- Juan has been asked to put his bike away, but he can't seem to get it to fit in the already full storage shed. He pushes other things around, but there still isn't enough space.
- Stephanie wants to make her own peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but the bread tears every time she tries to spread it.
- Darryl wants to buy a new toy he saw at the store, but his mom has told him he will have to save up the money himself.

How can we help preschoolers with these problems and maximize the learning experience?

1. **Understanding the problem:** Allowing plenty of time in the beginning to explore the problem is important. Don't rush in with our own solution too quickly.
2. **Planning how to solve it:** We can play a crucial role by asking open-ended vs. "yes-no" questions. Asking questions like "What could you do to make this work?" and "What other things can you think of?" will be important.
3. **Carrying out the plan:** Many children will want to move quickly to try out solutions. Trial and error learning is useful. We can offer our children chances to try things and make mistakes. Our role will be to help our child reflect as he/she tries things. "Why do you think that didn't work?" "Do you have some other ideas?"
4. **Reviewing the solution:** We can assist the learning process by reflecting on what was tried and how he/she got to that solution. "Which worked better to spread the peanut butter, the plastic knife or the metal knife?" "Did you notice a difference between the white bread and the wheat bread?" It is equally important to reflect on both what didn't work and what did work. At the same time, don't ask too many questions. If your child is ready to move on to a new challenge, allow him or her to do that. The whole problem-solving process may just take a matter of minutes, or it could take quite a bit longer depending on the problem, your child's interest in the problem, and the time available.

Children also learn from watching adults problem-solve. We can model the process as we solve our own problems. "This ground is too hard to dig. I wonder what I could do to help get it softer?"

It is not always possible to take all the time needed for our children to solve simple problems, but when we do have that luxury, take full advantage of the opportunity. You are building skills that will last a lifetime.

# Bright Horizons News



## Bright Horizons Online Community

Have you visited the Bright Horizons Online Community lately? It's a great place for parents and educators to share ideas, get perspectives and ask questions. Lots of moms, dads, teachers and grandparents are getting advice from other families facing similar challenges and successes.

Some of the things they are talking about are:

- When to tell your boss you're pregnant
- How to cope with sibling jealousy
- How to handle potty training set backs
- How to deal with toddler tantrums while shopping
- How to choose the right breast pump
- Kindergarten "redshirting"
- Managing screen time



The Online Community is also on Twitter so there are two great ways you can join in the conversations. Please join us at [www.brighthorizons.com/community](http://www.brighthorizons.com/community) or at [www.twitter.com/CommunityBH](http://www.twitter.com/CommunityBH).

## Parent Webinar Archives

Looking for expert advice on potty training, how to get your child to sleep or how to incorporate volunteerism into your busy schedule? We've partnered with thought leaders in these fields and others to provide you with practical advice and manageable tips. To access any of these fantastic and informative webinars, please visit [www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar).

### Activity at Home: Starting a Family Garden

Thinking about starting a garden with your child this spring? Seattle's Child has some great tips on where and how to start. <http://www.seattleschild.com/article/starting-a-family-vegetable-garden>