

Bright Horizons News

February 2014



From the Director

Throughout January, and every month of the year, the classrooms are filled with terrific projects and activities. From Infants through Kindergarten Prep, the teachers actively engage the children through intentional teaching practices that guide each child's social, physical, emotional, and cognitive development, creating joyful classroom environments that fostered cooperation and a sense of community. They do all of this with respect for each child and in full partnership with all families.

With all of this in mind, please take a moment to nominate our dedicated teachers for an Award of Excellence! Go to the website www.brighthorizons.com/awards anytime between February 3 -24 to submit nominations!

Teacher Anniversaries January and February

Miss Chris Silva – 23 years
Miss Dot Dipalma – 23 years
Miss Cindy Pisano – 15 years
Miss Luisa Rodriguez – 6 years

Important Dates

February 3-24: Awards of Excellence Nomination Period

February 17: Center Closed

February 25: Tuition is due!

February 26: Literacy Family Night 5:30p.m.– 7:00p.m.

Tuition Policy Reminder

Tuition is payable in advance and is due by:

- The 25th of the prior month, for monthly payments.
- The prior Friday, for weekly payments (where applicable).
- Other: _____ (where applicable).

If the full tuition is not received when due, a late fee of \$ 5.00 per day will be added until the tuition is paid in full. Although payments may be split between parents or supported by a subsidy, each parent is still responsible for timely payment of the full tuition. If payment is delinquent for one week or more, care may be suspended until the full balance is current and your child's space will not be reserved. Tuition is due regardless of a child's absence from the program for any reason, and is required to hold a child's space.

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infants

The Infant teachers encourage the baby's natural sense of curiosity by guiding their exploration of the world around them. Throughout the day, activities such as gazing in the mirror, sitting near friends during songs & story time and sharing some one on one time with a teacher, allow the babies to gain an awareness of self and others while engaging in the natural world.



Toddlers

The toddler room has been filled with math activities. From small figures for sorting, to shape boxes for matching, to the sensory table filled with objects for learning quantity and volume, learning is everywhere!. The teachers planned a *Math Counts* activity incorporating "number talk" such as "big/little" using the counting bears. As the children were matching the bears to the cards, the teachers were modeling language saying, "Which is the big bear?" and "which is the little bear?".

Twos

Toddler 3 has been busy with *Math Counts* activities as well. The teachers added games and materials for comparing, sorting and grouping. One of their favorite activities was sorting the geo shapes by color and by matching the shapes to their pair in an egg carton. These activities are great first steps to helping children understand mathematical concepts.



Preschool

The *Science Rocks* and *Well Aware* curriculum components have been the focus in Preschool as the children explore all aspects of how their bodies work. They have transformed their Dramatic Play area into a Doctor's office, complete with an x-ray machine(light table), they have learned about bones and the different systems that make the body work and they have examined germs and how to keep their bodies healthy. Throughout the entire month, the children have been engaged in research, testing hypotheses, making discoveries and learning how things work.

Kindergarten Prep

Kindergarten Prep has been discussing the planets in our solar system. They used the computer to research facts and watch a short documentary on the International Space Station. After a discussion at group time about what the astronauts eat, they used powdered or "dehydrated" milk in an experiment to turn the milk into the liquid form that we drink on Earth. They all made and recorded predictions of what they thought would happen when water was added.



Toward a Better World



Promoting Acceptance by Teaching Kindness

We, as well as our children are part of a rich diverse society, where we most likely interact with people from many cultures, backgrounds, and walks of life. Most parents share a universal hope to raise children who have open hearts and minds; who don't judge people by their accent, clothing, skin color, age, or physical appearance, children who are kind to everyone.

Children learn to be accepting, kind people by observing and modeling the important adults in their world. Simply telling children to "be kind" or "play with everyone" are good first steps, but do not lead to lasting effects on the development of children's attitudes. Observing adults being kind, compassionate, accepting, and inclusive toward other people is much more powerful.

One way to start promoting acceptance and kindness is to reflect on both the direct and subtle messages that we give children every day. Consider the messages we convey to children by our words, jokes, comments, tone, body language, facial expressions, and physical actions.

In addition to our everyday interactions, below are some ideas that might help promote acceptance and teach kindness:

- Acknowledge kind acts - both big and small.
- Use a kindness vocabulary; talk about empathy, compassion and kindness.
- Talk with children about their emotions. Children need to be aware of their own emotions before they can empathize with and respond to someone else's.
- Read stories and discuss how your child thinks people were feeling or might have acted differently. Ask what they would have done or said in a certain situation.
- Role-play scenarios with older children. Talk about how different people might feel in a specific situation.
- Talk about the plight of other people. If you see a homeless person or a person in a wheelchair, ask your child how that person might be feeling.
- Keep a gratitude journal in which family members can record what they are grateful for.
- At mealtimes or before bed, reflect together on the best parts of the day, and the parts when we might have made other choices.
- As a family, get involved in appropriate community social service projects (cleaning streams, donating used toys and books to a charity, keeping a penny jar to raise funds for a charity, visiting a nursing home, or Crafts with Kindness, etc.).
- Be helpful and kind in your day to day life – teach children thoughtful acts, such as standing up if an adult needs a seat on a bus or train, helping to carry groceries, or making a card for someone who is ill.
- Notice and embrace the differences in people. The world is a richer, better place because we are all different.

There is an old adage, "Children learn what they live." None of us are perfect, but we can all strive to raise our children in families where compassion, kindness and acceptance are integral parts of our family culture.

Bright Horizons News



Crafts with Kindness—Helping Busy Families Grow Big Hearts

Empathy is like a muscle; it needs to be exercised and trained to grow. [Crafts With Kindness](#) teaches children important values such as community responsibility, empathy, and gratitude. It encourages communication between family members and leads to important conversations about the value of doing for others.

This Valentine's Day, you can put your child's imagination to work and help make giving back a special part of your celebrations with *Crafts With Kindness*. Our all-in-one craft kit includes the materials needed to complete a meaningful service project that is age-appropriate and teaches children compassion for the world and all its people.

Our 'Messages of Care' kit is on sale now, and includes activities that help children spread kindness with friends, family and their community. To learn more or to purchase a kit, visit www.craftswithkindness.org.



Crafts With Kindness is a collaboration between Bright Horizons® and Doing Good Together. All proceeds benefit [Big-Hearted Families](#) and the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®](#).

Awards of Excellence 2014—Nominate Someone with HEART!



At Bright Horizons, our *Awards of Excellence* program helps us recognize the extraordinary work, dedication, and passion of our employees. We are pleased to invite you to help us recognize the many wonderful early childhood professionals and other dedicated Bright Horizons employees who show their commitment to children and families each day.

As part of our *Awards of Excellence* recognitions, we honor one teacher from each division of the company with the Janice Hill Award. This prestigious award recognizes teachers who demonstrate dedication and passion for early childhood education. It honors teachers who help to create a positive, nurturing environment for the center or school as a whole. They guide and support their colleagues and model respectful interactions with children and families.

Here's your opportunity to acknowledge those who consistently impress you with their extraordinary efforts! **Nominations may be made during our nomination period February 3 – February 24.** Please take a few moments to help us recognize those who impress, support, and care for us with their excellence each and every day. To learn more, or to make a nomination, visit our website: www.brighthorizons.com/awards.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to your center/school administration team. Thank you for your time and effort in recognizing outstanding Bright Horizons employees!