

Bright Horizons News

March 2014



From the Director

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"
~Robin Williams

- Join us Saturday March 29th for a Saturday "Get Together" at Roger Williams Park Playground! We will meet at the playground at 10:00am! We hope to see you all there.
- Annual Re-Registration will be underway soon. Please be on the lookout for information through email.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

are NOW AVAILABLE on the

Family Information Center

The **Family Information Center** is a secure web destination for families to manage and view important information about your child, your center/school, and your family's account.

- Sign up for recurring ACH payments!
- Avoid late fees!
- Forget the monthly reminders!
- Easily access billing statements and view account balances!

Register Today to Set Up Online Payments!

<https://familyinfocenter.brighthorizons.com>

Important Dates

March 25th – Tuition is due! (Please remember to pay by the 25th to avoid the \$5.00 per day late fee)

March 29th – Saturday "Get Together" – Roger Williams Park Playground

Documentation Highlight

Kindergarten Prep created a 3 dimensional replica of the NY skyline!



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Classroom Highlights



Infants

Early Literacy experiences are provided by the teachers in the Infant Room on a daily basis. The Infants learn to explore picture books and enjoy book time by having daily access to age-appropriate books and listening to books read throughout the day.

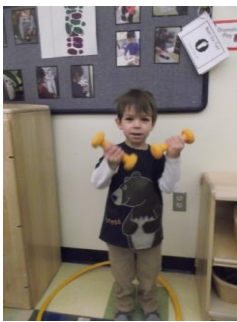


Toddlers

The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and The Big Hungry Bear has been the favorite book in the Toddler Room. The teachers planned the curriculum experiences based on the toddler's excitement for the story. They worked together to create a 3 dimensional strawberry allowing the children to work with different textures such as beans, which represented the seeds. They also helped to cut strawberries for snack and talked about how they tasted. In the sensory table the teachers added strawberry flavored Kool-Aid mix to cornstarch and water to create a wonderful *Science Rocks* experience.

Twos

After reading Sky Color by Peter Reynolds, the teachers planned an *Art Smart* activity for the children to explore colors while painting a canvas. This activity led to more discussions about color. The teachers extended the color exploration throughout the classroom. They made a *Math Counts* matching game where the children had to match the paint brush with its paint can and each day in the sensory table the children explored materials of a specific color. The quiet area was also filled with stories related to color.



Preschool

Staying healthy and exploring how their bodies function has been the main topic in preschool for quite a while. Recently as a group the children recalled all the different ways to stay healthy including rest and exercise. They decided to turn their Dramatic Play area into "Preschool Planet Fitness". The teachers added real exercise materials including small weights, a yoga mat, step platforms and pictures that represent fitness. *Movement Matters*, *Well Aware*, *Science Rocks* and *Math Counts* were the key curriculum components evident every day.

Kindergarten Prep

While Kindergarten Prep was learning about Egypt, the teachers took the opportunity to create an exciting and challenging *Math Counts* activity. The children needed to recreate a pyramid with blocks following the blueprint they created during group time. This was a fun and engaging way to include Geometry in the K-Prep room!



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Creating an Environment for Learning in Your Home

As adults, we typically find it is easier to sit down and pay bills, write a letter, or send an email when our work space is attractive and easily accessible. The same is true for children. The environment matters. One step in helping your child get ready for formal schooling can be creating an environment for learning in your home.

Subtle environmental additions communicate that you think learning and learning materials are important. This could be as simple as setting aside a space in your child's room or a corner of the kitchen table for "school activities."

READY to WRITE: Provide a small basket or cardboard "school box" with crayons, pencils, post-its, and small pads of paper. An attractive container of colored pencils and washable markers is also likely to attract your child's attention. You could add ABC stencils, a ruler, an eraser, and lined paper for older children, if you'd like. (If you have younger children in your home, keep these out of reach when your preschool or kindergarten child is not using them). This can be the place your child can go to do his/her "school work." Keep it fun and avoid pressuring your child to use these materials. Save them for a relaxed activity where your child can practice as he/she chooses while you are busy cooking dinner or cleaning up.

READY to READ: Another helpful addition to the environment is having reading materials readily available. We know that reading aloud to children is a key factor in later embracing reading in their own lives. In addition, children who see their parents reading and enjoying it are more apt to want to read themselves. As you read the newspaper, for example, your child can select from a basket of books or children's magazines to look through. It is important to have books at children's levels that they can access on their own. Even toddlers will enjoy a basket of sturdy board books or plastic books at their level. When children look through the pictures in a favorite book that has been read aloud to them again and again, they often retell the story to themselves, either silently or out loud. Being able to recall and re-tell a story is an important pre-reading skill.

READY for MATH: The kitchen is a logical place to add materials for your child to learn math skills such as measuring. Have some plastic measuring cups and spoons for your child's use that are kept in a low, open cabinet or drawer accessible for his/her use. At appropriate times, when you are not too rushed, your child could help you count and measure as you, for example, pour cups of lukewarm water into a pot for cooking pasta. When you have less time to interact, stacking nested measuring cups (ones that fit inside each other), spoons, or small bowls is a good ordering activity for your child to work on independently.

You probably already have many learning opportunities available in your home. Consider presenting them in new and different ways to attract renewed interest from your child. Have fun setting up these learning spaces!

Bright Horizons News



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



Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you!

This April, we are hosting an Open House week to welcome new families to learn more about our center. 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!

Please see Center Director for details.

Join us for the next installment in our Family Matters Webinar Series on March 26!

Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

Organization Tips for Busy Families

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Being a working parent takes an incredible amount of organization, preparation, juggling and a little bit of daily magic! If you're a busy parent in search for some tips to help organize your family's busy schedule, this webinar is for you! In this webinar we'll provide you with tips and tricks on getting your family organized, including:

- how to make transitions from home to school/child care easier
- tips and resources for meal planning, calendar sharing and overall family communication
- how to manage 'hiccups' in your daily routine, such as school holidays or breakdowns in child care arrangements
- homework management, chore organization and overall tips for keeping your home and family running smoothly

To register, visit www.brighthorizons.com/organizationtipswebinar.*

* **The first 100 registrants will win a free 3-month subscription to The Six O' Clock Scramble**—an online family dinner planning service for busy parents that takes the Scramble out of 6:00 with a weekly dinner plan and grocery list delivered right to their email inbox or phone. Visit webinar registration page for additional details.