

Bright Horizons at Los Gatos

May 2013



Center News 'n' Notes

Parent Leadership Meeting w/ Mary

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 12th from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** **All families are invited** to participate and join the group! This is a great time to receive center updates, share thoughts and ideas, mingle with other families and add to the success of our center! Yummy snacks will also be provided! Hope to see you there!

Summer Program: It's that time of year again when children of all ages embark on a summer journey here at Bright Horizons! Through weekly themes, special guests, and an abundance of activities we will have a fun, exciting, and educational summer experience that will create life long memories for your family!

Some of our favorite guests from last summer are returning such as The Bubble Lady, our local police department and the Tahiti Nui hula dancers! New guests this year will include *Happily Ever Laughter* (puppet and magic show), *Fur, Scales and Tails* (animal show) and *Puppet Art Theater Co.* (puppet show)! Beyond hosting special guests, the center will also engage in other enjoyable activities such as: water play, jump houses, spirit days, and spectacular projects.

Each year we have a summer program fee that helps cover the expenses of our guests and assists us in creating an exciting summer experience for your child. **The cost for families in Young Preschool, Preschool and Pre-K is \$45.** *If your child is in Pre-K and leaving for Kindergarten before the summer ends, please see the front office for an adjusted summer program materials fee.* **The cost for Toddler families will be \$20.** Infant families will not be charged a summer fee. The summer program materials fee is **due on May 25, 2013 with your June tuition payment.**



Links to Use



www.facebook.com/brighthorizons



www.twitter.com/brighthorizons



blogs.brighthorizons.com/momtomom



www.brighthorizons.com/community

Important Dates: May 2013

May 6th: Pre-K Parent Conferences Begin

May 13th: Mary Returns from Vacation

May 17th: Parent's Night Out 6:00PM – 9:30PM

May 27th: Center Closed (Memorial Day)

May 31st: Pre-Kindergarten Graduation 4:30PM

June 1st: Saturday Event: A Child's Farmer's

WELL AWARE/OPEN HOUSE: A Child's Farmer's Market



Please join us on **Saturday, June 1st** for
A Child's Farmer's Market!
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- For the first time our center will introduce to you *A Child's Farmer's Market!* Many children visit local neighborhood farmer's markets and how fun would it be for the children to actually create their own?

Join us as we will have booths and activities that will include...

- Fresh Flowers for sale*
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for sale*
- "How much sugar is in your drink?" Demonstration
- Health Foods vs. Non-Healthy Foods Smart board Activity
- Taste Test: Steamed vs. Raw Vegetables
- Movement Matters Obstacle Course
- Child Car Seat Checks by a Santa Clara County Sheriff
- My Green Lunch (our lunch caterer)

Come see the skills your child is developing each day to stay healthy!

**All flowers, fruits and vegetables will be for sale. All proceeds of our event will be donated to the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children.*



Well Aware at Bright Horizons
Building the foundation for a lifetime of healthy habits

Bright Horizons 
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

Happy Birthday to you!!



May 1st: Aideyn (Young Preschool 2)

May 3rd: Matthew (Pre-Kindergarten)

May 4th: Erin (Infant 1)

May 5th: Brynn (Young Preschool 1)

May 5th: Cameryn (Infant 2)

May 13th: Emma (Infant 1)

May 13th: Mandy (Support Teacher)

May 14th: Arjun (Preschool 1)



May 18th: Dagny (Young Preschool 2)

May 18th: Sepehr (Preschool 2)

May 21st: Ethan Y. (Pre-Kindergarten)

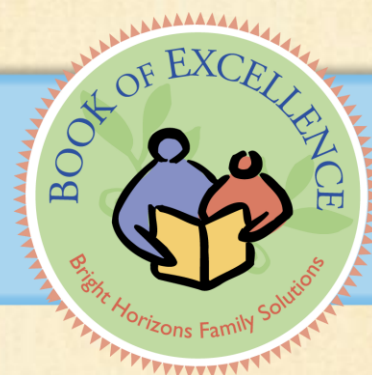
May 21st: Sophia (Preschool 1)

May 25th: Missy (Toddler Teacher)

May 26th: Leyla (Pre-Kindergarten)

May 26th: Mina (Preschool 2)

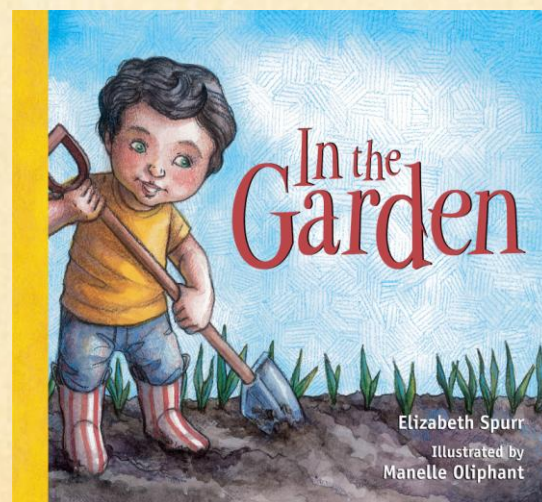
Books of Excellence: *In the Garden*



Patience is a virtue and it is one that is not always easily taught to young children. It is hard to wait for things to happen.

This story follows a little boy as he prepares for and plants his garden. Readers learn what tools he needs to ready the soil, how to plant seeds, and what it takes for the seeds to grow. They learn how to tend a garden and how Mother Nature lends a hand as well. Gardening takes a lot of tools and a lot of time to grow. The little boy gets distracted while he is waiting for something to sprout, but one day he glances over and is thrilled to see the start of a beautiful garden!

All of this is done using simple one-word descriptions that young readers will be sure to repeat every time. This beautiful board book teaches children that some things really are worth the wait!



Classroom Highlights

Each month we will highlight an activity that is taking place in our programs.
This month we are featuring Infant I, Toddler I, Young Preschool I and Preschool I.



Infant I Classroom Activity: Throughout the month our babies explored stacking cups, stacking bowls, blocks, shape sorters and many other shape and math oriented toys. It was amazing to see their interest progressed and began to learn what these materials were for! We experienced stacking, filling, dumping and pouring. We sang songs with numbers and read books that practiced counting. Our environment offers plenty of items that are purposely chosen to go with our learning process and developmental goals. Currently, the items can be used as a tool for learning math concepts.



Toddler I Classroom Activity: With the Spring season among us, the children have been showing interest in the blooming flowers all around us. One day each toddler was given a white carnation flower to investigate. They explored with their sight, touch and smell. Once they became familiar with the flower, the toddlers were shown different cups of colored watercolor paint. We practiced saying the names of each color. We then placed our flowers in each cup to see what would happen. The next day we discovered that our carnation absorbed the paint and turned into the colors of the rainbow! One child noticed right away when they came to school as they pointed and said "Pretty!"

Young Preschool I Classroom Activity: The Young Preschoolers have shown an interest in ocean life. We have been learning about kelp forests and sea otters as seen when the children visit the aquarium in Monterey. We have also talked about what things we can find on the beach and what animals live there. On our science table we created an interactive space where the children can explore different items such as sand, sea shells and animals. We included magnifying glasses so they can really see the details in the sea shells and that sand is actually tiny grains.



Preschool I Classroom Activity: Keeping up with our new friends, the silkworms, can be a lot of work. They eat a lot and we feed them a hefty supply of Mulberry leaves...daily! Because they eat so much we decided it would be a great opportunity to track their growth. One Monday we noticed that they practically doubled in size over the weekend. We brought out rulers and tried to measure them, but they are just too wiggly! Instead of measuring the real silkworms we measured fake worms of various sizes. Not only did we measure the worms but we measured ourselves. We grow pretty fast too!!

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.

Family Fitness Challenge



**Bright Horizons families know that
Movement Matters!**



Join our **Family Fitness Challenge** on Facebook* to share a photo of how your family enjoys fitness together and you'll be entered to win prizes including:

- \$100 Whole Foods gift card
- Yumbox® bento-style lunchbox
- Movement Matters prize packages (including Bright Horizons' favorite children's movement/fitness materials used at our centers)*

Visit us on Facebook for additional information:

www.facebook.com/brighthorizons

**Contest will run May 17-May 31, 2013*

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)