

# Lawrenceville Ledger

April 2014



## From the Director

March was a time for exciting celebrations!

At the beginning of the month, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday! The children enjoyed rhyming words and reading about all of the silly characters in each of Dr. Seuss's books. Yosi surprised us, dressed up as the Cat in the Hat, and performed a special concert in honor of his birthday! Everyone loved singing along to his creative lyrics!

At the end of March, we celebrated the Center's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday! The children enjoyed a special concert with Lovey Williams and then sang "Happy Birthday" to the Center as they snacked on delicious cupcakes!

We also invited back families who began in the Center 15 years ago! It was great to see so many familiar faces all grown up! These "alumni" enjoyed reminiscing about when they were enrolled in the Center, as they looked at photos from their time spent with us.

April is sure to bring many more great memories as we celebrate Week of the Young Child, Parent Appreciation Week and Teacher Appreciation Week!

Happy Spring!

## Important Dates

**April 1 – Parent Partnership Meeting  
12:15pm**

**April 7 through 11 – Week of the Young Child**

**April 8 – Hawaiian Hula Dancer Visits**

**April 10 – Bill Wood the Storyteller Visits**

**April 11 – Parent's Night Out**

**April 14 through 18 – Parent Appreciation Week**

**April 21 through 25 – Teacher Appreciation Week**



### Connect with Bright Horizons

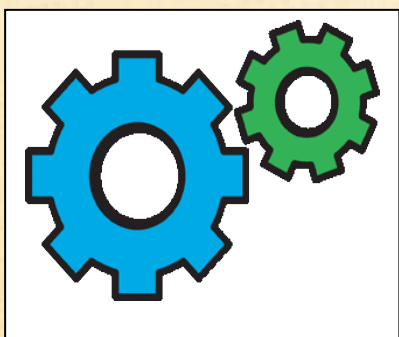


# Science Rocks



## Infants

Babies are born scientists: programmed to investigate, experiment, and discover how the world works. The *Science Rocks* curriculum helps infants begin the process of discovery. Within the framework of this curriculum, teachers provide a sensory-rich environment with a range of objects to manipulate that promotes a spirit of inquiry and curiosity.

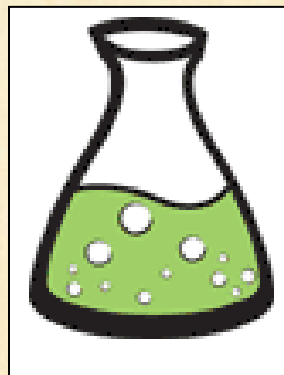


## Toddlers

*Science Rocks* provides a framework for teachers to weave scientific learning into all aspects of a toddler's day. Through intentional experiences, meaningful conversations and enriched environments- asking children "what if" questions, growing herbs in a paper cup garden, recording what objects float or sink in a water table- teachers help children become skilled observers, inquisitive investigators, and life-long researchers.

## Preschool

During the preschool years, teachers carefully plan science experiences that not only introduce scientific concepts and facts, but also nurture curiosity, wonder, engagement with the natural world, critical thinking, and an inquisitive approach toward learning –all essential skills needed for success in school and life.



## Kindergarten

*Science Rocks* engages kindergarteners in complex and meaningful scientific learning. It explores the broad scope of scientific disciplines, from physics, to chemistry, to earth science. Through these experiences, kindergarteners will have the opportunity to make queries, test hypothesis, investigate properties, explore scientific phenomenon, and make profound discoveries.



## READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Learning to Count

Teaching children to count may seem like an easy task, but there are actually many components to this seemingly simple task which evolve over time. For example:

- The first step in counting is typically “rote counting”, or memorizing the names and order of the numbers. Often children are able to do this before age three; however, this does not mean that children understand the concepts behind the numbers. Numerical concepts follow later.
- To count higher than nine, children need to understand that a new “decade” begins and what that decade is called. In English, the “teen” numbers are the hardest to learn because they have somewhat random names. It would be easier if after ten, you had “oneteen, twoteen, threeteen” instead of “eleven, twelve, thirteen.” This requires children to memorize the numbers and sequence and this takes time. Another challenge is remembering the name of the new decade. We have all heard a child pause after counting to 29 and then say “50!” Car rides and other waiting times are good times to practice counting, but keep it light and fun and change activities when your child loses interest. You want to keep your child interested and motivated to learn to count, not turned off to numbers.
- One-to-one correspondence is another important concept for children to master. This means that a child links each number to an additional object. Initially children may count and skip items or touch more than one item as they say a number name. For practice in one-to-one correspondence, ask children to set the table and count as they put one napkin at each place, one spoon at each place, etc.
- Keeping track of what was counted is another important component to one-to-one correspondence. For correct counting, children have to have a method for remembering which items they already counted and not counting one item multiple times. A child can use the correct number sequence and use one-to-one correspondence, but still get the incorrect answer, if he counts an item more than once. Introduce methods for keeping track such as counting objects into sections of an egg carton, having your child put only one object in each section as she counts. Or use a piece of paper with a line drawn down the middle. Start with all of the objects to the left of the line. Have your child move objects to the right of the line as they are counted.
- Parents sometimes wonder whether using fingers to count is a good skill to teach. For many children, finger counting may be an excellent way for them to practice one-to-one correspondence (one finger per object).
- Reading counting books together may be another low-key way to reinforce counting concepts. There are lots available – a few suggestions are Anno’s Counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno, Teeth, Tails and Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book by Christopher Wormell, Duckie’s Ducklings: A one-to-one counting book by Frances Barry and Corduroy’s Day: A Counting Book by Don Freeman.

Resource: Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

# Bright Horizons News



## Join Bright Horizons in Celebrating Earth Day on April 22

*Mark your calendars – April 22nd is Earth Day!*



We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. We have many suggestions for green projects on our new [Bright Horizons Going Green board](#) on Pinterest. Small changes can lead to a big impact! So remember to bring your reusable bag to the store, plant a flower with your child, or bring in some supplies from home for your center to reuse for an art project.

Interested in learning more about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our eFamily news article: [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

However you choose to celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful Earth Day.

## COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week are coming!



Each year, we take a week of April to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families. Please mark your calendars!