

Lawrenceville Ledger

September 2014



From the Director

Summer always seems to end so quickly, but looking ahead, we have many exciting events planned for the children and families.

We are looking forward to the return of our Music Program with Miss Jen. She always shares fun songs to sing with us and the children love playing the instruments that she brings with her, too!

Next month, we will be hosting our Annual Curriculum Night from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. We encourage all families to join us for a glimpse into *The World at Their Fingertips* curriculum and to find out how your children are learning and exploring new concepts each day.

Many other exciting activities are currently being planned for the upcoming months. As always, feel free to stop by the front office to speak with a member of the administrative team for any questions you may have.

Happy Fall!

Important Dates

September 1: Center Closed: Labor Day

September 2: First Day of Kindergarten

**September 9: Music Program begins for
Preschool and Kindergarten**

**September 16: Family Matters Series
webinar**

September 22: First Day of Autumn



Connect with Bright Horizons



Math Counts



Infants

The *Math Counts* curriculum for babies enhances these early experiences by providing materials and activities that promote the development of a mathematical foundation. Through everyday occurrences, infant teachers nurture both an infant's awareness of mathematical concepts and support her development of related early mathematical skills.



Toddlers

Toddlers are offered a learning environment in which they can compare, sort, group, and manipulate safe, toddler-sized materials, and learn from “number talk” such as “more/less,” “big/little,” and “full/empty.” A toddler room is full of activities from small figures for sorting, to shape boxes for matching, to cups to stack by size, to sensory tables to learn comparison of quantity and volume. Together, they add up to the foundation for mathematics.



Preschool

Math Counts offers a framework for developing the skills and abilities of young mathematicians, ensuring that children recognize math in everyday life. Classroom environments and accompanying experiences are designed to support preschoolers as they continually develop their mathematical thinking and quantitative reasoning. *Math Counts* ensures children don't simply memorize numbers, but instead build mathematical reasoning skills so they can solve problems and use math in real and meaningful ways.



Kindergarten

Children are taught about the core mathematical concepts and helps kindergarteners expand their mathematical knowledge through daily opportunities for putting their new know-how to work. By infusing math into real and interesting experiences, children not only learn the elements of numeration and measurement as well as reasoning and quantitative skills, but they also develop a genuine enthusiasm for math.



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Stages of Children's Writing

Learning to write is a significant developmental milestone in young children's lives. Writing and reading go hand in hand, and the development of one encourages the development of the other. Like so many other aspects of development, writing skills generally unfold in a predictable sequence. The typical stages that children's writing follows are listed below. The ages accompanying these stages are rough guidelines and vary widely.

1. **Making a mark:** (18 months to 2 ½ years) Through experimentation, children discover that the writing instrument they are holding (crayon, marker, pencil) can "make a mark." Initially, children discover this as they experiment with cause and effect relationships, but later, making marks becomes more purposeful. The "doing" of the mark is more important than the end product to toddlers and twos. This stage includes experimenting with all the different ways to make marks, including scribbling, jabbing, or marking back and forth. The sheer joy of making marks is the focus. Older infants or young toddlers may experiment with making a mark, but it becomes more deliberate in older toddlers and twos.
2. **Marks have a meaning:** (2 ½ to 4 years) Sometimes unintentionally, children look at the marks they have made and think they look like something. This is the very beginning of deliberate writing – marking for a purpose. Children will wonder, "How do I make that again?" Some marks might be designated as pictures, while others are designated as writing of some sort, i.e., "That says 'Michael'." The marks may all look the same to adults, but they mean something different to children. Gradually the marks children make for writing begin to look different from the marks used for drawing. At the same time, young children begin to understand that adults use written letters and words to communicate. Understanding that writing has meaning is a powerful motivator.
3. **Marks begin to resemble letters:** (3 ½ to 5 years) Children often start first drawing lines or lots of lines next to each other. Or they may draw lines of scribbling versus circular scribbling. Either way, it begins to more closely resemble letters or even cursive writing. Eventually children move to "mock letters" which resemble letters, but aren't exactly letters (i.e., an E with five horizontal line instead of three). This is typical around age 4. Mock letters typically contain many of the strokes in real letters – straight lines and curves.
4. **Writing more closely resembles standard letters:** (4 to 6 years) Children come to understand that there are a finite number of letters. Mock letters are used less frequently.
5. **Writing includes "mock words":** (4 ½ to 6 years) Children write standard letters in groupings that resemble words, but aren't actual words.
6. **Phonics-based spelling:** (5 to 6 years) Children attempt to write words the way they think they sound. This is typical for many kindergarten-age children.

A few ways to encourage children in their writing:

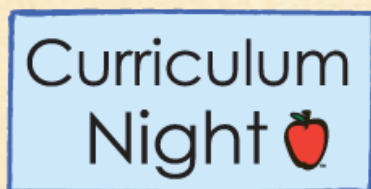
1. Keep a well-stocked writing center in your home with lots of different types of paper (lined and unlined, construction paper, small tablets, etc.) and writing tools (crayons, fat and thin pencils, pens, etc.). You can also add clip boards, erasers, rulers, sample letters to copy, etc. Add new materials occasionally to keep your child's interest.
2. Ask your child to tell you about her written work.
3. Encourage your child to tell stories. Either write down what he says or have him attempt to write it down with support as needed. Write grocery lists, invitations for play dates, or emails to relatives and friends.
4. Offer play dough, lacing cards, manipulatives and small blocks to help build the fine motor muscles necessary for writing.
5. Keep early writing experiences fun and playful. Make them meaningful and relevant whenever possible. For example, children generally gain more from writing a letter to grandma than from completing workbook pages.

Schickedanz, J. A. & Casbergue, R. M. (2005). *Writing in Preschool: Learning to Orchestrate Meaning and Marks*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association

Bright Horizons News



Curriculum Night 2014: "A Day in the Life"



Experience a "Day in the Life" of your child at Curriculum Night 2014. Join us on Thursday, October 9th from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Parents in all age groups are invited for an orientation into your child's upcoming year with Bright Horizons.

During the event you and your family will have the opportunity to: familiarize yourselves with your child's classroom schedule and activities, see how the various pieces of *The World at Their Fingertips*® curriculum are brought to life each day, and meet with your child's teachers to ask questions and discuss learning objectives for the upcoming year.

Share in your Bright Horizons experience and invite your friends and family to join you at Curriculum Night. Please see your Center Director or your child's teacher if you have questions or would like more information about Curriculum Night.

REGISTER NOW: September installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!

Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

Parenting: Being Proactive and Positive

Tuesday, September 16, 1:00 pm EST

www.brighthouse.com/positive

Bright Horizons Family Solutions,® presenting in collaboration with guest speaker Amy McCreedy of [Positive Parenting Solutions](#), is bringing you the next installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series on positive school-age discipline.

Join us during this webinar to learn and explore proactive parenting techniques that will help to fulfill your child's emotional need, foster good behavior, and eliminate the power struggle that often fuels bad behavior.