

Bright Horizons at Philadelphia

May 2012



Setting the table is a great way to introduce chores to young children, but can also teach one-to-one correspondence. Practice counting out one fork, plate and napkin per person then placing them on the dinner table. Don't worry too much about proper placement, focus more on the concept.

For more activities you can do at home, visit www.brighthorizons.com/education/learning.

Family Spotlight...The Jennings Family

Our May spotlight brings us back into the Caterpillar room and introduces us to one of our newest families. The Jennings started with Bright Horizons in April in our infant program. Jocelyn is a family therapist and Rob works for Whole Foods Market. Prior to living in the Art Museum/Fairmount area, the Jennings lived in Madison, Wisconsin. As a family they enjoy walking to the park or the zoo, singing and playing guitar. When they are not in Philadelphia, you may find them vacationing in Stone Harbor, NJ.



Important Dates to Note

Wednesday, May 9th

Pajama Day

Friday, May 11th

Muffins for Moms

Thursday, May 17th

Lisa at Director's Meeting

Friday, May 18th

Math Counts Fair

Friday, May 25th

Tuition Due

Camp free for Preschool Only Due

Monday, May 28th

Center Closed for Memorial Day

May 30 – June 1st

Lisa at Leadership Conference

Happy Birthday to You!

Juniper K. – May 1st
Malak A. – May 1st
Catherine H. – May 5th
Matteo R.- May 8th
Sam G. – May 15th
Maya Z. – May 22nd
Justin C. – May 24th



Bright Horizons Fun Facts

Bright Horizons will have one of their own be a torchbearer in the Olympics this year! A nursery nurse (teacher in the UK) from a center in Wales was nominated and picked for this high honor.





Science Rocks Fair

A component of the *World At Their Fingertips* curriculum is *Science Rocks*. Children are naturally curious about how the world works around them. It starts with them pointing to the world around them when they are infants and then turns into the question “why?” At Bright Horizons, we foster that curiosity through hands-on learning and experiments.



What happens when you mix cornstarch and water? The Bumblebees discovered that it isn't just any normal liquid. Cornstarch and water acts like a solid but flows like a liquid.



How can we make colors move? The Crickets found a way! When you add drops of soap into milk, it causes a reaction. In order to see it, the Crickets added food coloring.



How does dirt feel? How does dirt taste? What tools can I use to move the dirt? These are the questions that our Caterpillar room answered.



What does “rough” feel like? The Ladybugs mixed sand into their paint to explore different textures.



Noticing and Nourishing Nature

Exploring nature is an on-going activity, and an integral part of the Bright Horizons *Science Rocks* program. We hope you share our expectation that the children's daily experiences are rich in science. "Nature is bountiful. There are shapes and sizes, colors, and textures, smells and tastes, an enormous variety of substances. In a world of catalogues and consumable objects, designed places and programmed areas, sometimes it is helpful to remember that the natural world is full of multi-dimensional, unassailingly educational experiences for children" (Greenman, 2005, p.284).

Nature is alive, vibrant, ever changing and real. When connecting with nature, children develop a connection to something universal and timeless, yet unpredictable, and it stimulates their sense of wonder. Sharing the wonder of our natural world can be very exciting and fun. Helping children make sense of their world is the basis for all future learning. The process of questioning, exploring, and concluding is really learning how to think! Outside children can collect leaves, grasses, and seeds; feel the wind; talk about the warmth of the sun on their skin, search for insects or spiders, explore under rocks, and follow butterflies around the yard. These are natural experiences that help them develop an awareness of the world.

Immersed in the outdoor world, often children develop an inclination to become nurturers. They might plant seeds in soil, water them, watch them grow into flowers, herbs or vegetables. They might discover wildlife in the outdoor environment and create a habitat for their temporary pets, or perhaps find worms, (which are fascinating creatures for children to gently hold and observe). Children have been known to nurture "pet rocks," special rocks found in the outdoor world. Often when involved in the natural world, even boisterous, active children slow down and focus on being gentle and encouraging friends to be gentle too.

Here are some simple ideas that you can use to connect with nature:

- Gardening – Encourage your child to give a drink to their potted friends on your porch or deck.
- Cloud gazing – Finding animals or a shape in the clouds encourages our imagination.
- Bare toes in the grass – Does this tickle? Feel sharp? How does it smell?
- Watching ants work – Be prepared for lots of interesting questions from your child!
- Collecting rocks, shells, and leaves – Gather something plentiful that has variety. Even the simplest objects in nature can be beautiful.

"Nature is science that is alive with sounds, scents and sights. Children learn through active exploration with their environment. Nature is hard, soft, fragile, heavy, light, smooth and rough. Armed with our senses, we explore the world and call the adventure science; or, if you prefer, cognitive development, classification, sensory development, or perceptual-motor learning" (Greenman, p. 284).

"Nature nourishes and heals: Human beings evolved outdoors. Our bodies need sunlight and fresh air. Our minds need the experience and challenges that nature presents. Our souls need the day to day appreciation for the miracle of the world and all its complexity. Without a deep sense of awe at the vastness and majesty of the natural world that humbles us, and a simultaneous ennobling sense that we are intrinsically a part of that world, we are diminished." (Greenman, p 286). As parents, our prime responsibility is to emotionally, cognitively and physically nourish our children. Connecting with nature isn't another activity to fit into the day- it's part of our lives.




Math Counts at Bright Horizons

Math Counts, one aspect of *The World at Their Fingertips* curriculum, is an approach that encourages all of the adults in the child's life to look for and create opportunities to help children understand the math inherent in their everyday lives. From a toddler's conception of more cookies to the one-to-one correspondence in setting a table, children are helped to become increasingly competent in numerical skills and reasoning. *Math Counts* establishes learning centers, projects, activities, and guidelines for teacher interactions that all promote the developmental growth necessary for success in school. Children learn number recognition, one-to-one correspondence, seriation, ordination, and other fundamental math skills.



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Thanks for your support!

