

Bright Horizons at Christiana News

From the Directors



We love all of the great feedback we have been receiving regarding the My Bright Day app. We have heard that families appreciate the immediate access to information on their child's care, the *What in the World Happened Today* updates via e-mail at the end of the day and frequent photos of their children.

As a reminder, this tool is a two-way communication system. From the app homepage parents can:

- Select Drop-off Notes to add information about your child's day, preferred contact info, etc.
- Select Memories to see history of photos/videos
- Let the teachers know if you will be keeping your child home for vacation or due to illness

Additionally, teachers are able to send short messages to families through the mobile app.

With this increased electronic communication system now in place, we will be phasing out the paper journals the center has been using. Families will continue to receive frequent photos and notes on the activities their children are engaging in as well as information on the developmental benefits of the activities. Additionally, parent can continue to add their own entries through our Teaching Strategies Gold program. These entries will be included in the electronic portfolio created for families when they leave our program.

We are very happy to have this communication program in place!

Important Dates

June 8 th	Kindergarten Prep Success Celebration
June 19 th	School-Age Summer Camp begins
June 19 th	Sprinkler play begins
June 22 nd	Summer Soccer Shots begins (PS-Camp)
June 25 th	July tuition due
July 4 th	center closed
July 20 th	Family Picnic

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

Meera (Toddler 12)	06/07/2015
Elizabeth (PS 15)	06/08/2014
Noah (Infant 5)	06/09/2016
Kayla (Teacher)	06/10/????
Sawyer (Infant 7)	06/13/2016
Evelyn (Toddler 12)	06/14/2015
Soha (PS 15)	06/15/2014
Brittany (Teacher)	06/16/????
Aheli (PS 6)	06/20/2013

Bright Horizons at Christiana

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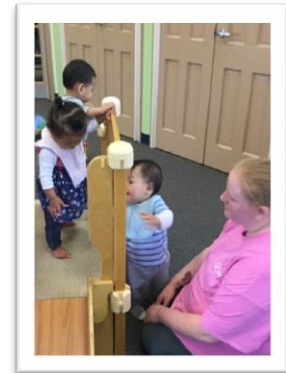
Monday through Friday 6:30 am – 6:00 pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Meeting each individual child's needs is the core of our infant program. As our infants grow and begin staying awake for longer, more predictable periods we begin to work on a routine and schedule. We begin to take naps close to the same time with longer times between. This allows us to start forming a schedule in which we have activity time, outside, and movement matters zone time on a daily, consistent basis. We still work with each child as an individual, so a few may stay behind if needed for a nap or meal but work to meet those needs while including everyone in these times out of the room. This will help when we move up to our next room and moving to the one nap routine of a toddler room. Helping our children form a routine and schedule makes for a more predictable day which is something young toddlers thrive on. Routines and predictability makes their day a comfort.



Toddler

We have loved playing in the dramatic play area this week. We are working on our imagination and creativity while pretending to make food and give it to our friends. This is also a great social activity with bonds forming between the children and helps increase language. In the dramatic play area, we learn to make friends and develop positive relationships. We learn this by playing together in learning centers.



Twos

In Room 4, we have been sharing and discussing our cultures and family traditions! Through Our World, we learn to be aware of and respect gender, race, ethnicity, and physical differences in people. We learn it by looking at books and hearing stories about people of different cultures or ethnicities. Many of the children brought books from home, such as, "Boogie-Woogie Ganesha", "Moonbeams, Dumplings, and Dragon Boats", "Dragon Dance", and "Ganesha's Sweet Tooth". They were very excited to share these family traditions with their friends! We also learn it by drawing self-portraits. The children used mirrors and markers to observe their own facial features and draw them on the paper. They had great conversations about what they noticed!



Preschool and Kindergarten Prep

The children in room 8's preschool and kindergarten prep class are always engaged in enthusiastic and curious science discovery. During our insect week the children were able to explore real insects and bugs up close and personal. Becoming familiar with the properties of living things and their environment allows them to better understand how things work and react. Through these experiences they have the opportunity to ask questions, make predictions, explore science at its best, and make profound discoveries



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Phonemic Awareness: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Phonemic awareness is the understanding that words are made of phonemes (sounds). It is also the ability to identify and manipulate those sounds. Phonemic awareness is not phonics, but is a precursor to the ability to comprehend phonics instruction in the older years. Without phonemic awareness, phonics instruction makes little sense. In fact, strong phonemic awareness is a predictor of later reading success.

Parents have always intuitively nurtured their children's phonemic awareness through nursery rhymes, songs, and word games. Below are a few ideas for taking this natural tendency even further through intentional phonemic awareness lessons. These lessons should be casual, brief, and fun. Always consider your child's readiness when introducing them.

TODDLERS, TWOS, AND UP

- **Read together.** Share silly poetry, sing nursery rhymes, and read picture books with repetitive or rhyming verse. These activities help children understand the patterns and rhythm of language.
- **Play listening games.** Identify specific sounds, such as dogs barking, birds chirping, or a trash truck or ambulance driving by.

PRESCHOOLERS THROUGH KINDERGARTEN

- **Continue reading** a variety of literature to children, including nursery rhymes and repetitive stories.
- **Play more advanced listening games.** Hide a noisemaker, such as a ticking tock or a bell somewhere in the room. Ask your child to listen closely to find the location of the noise. Play two sounds, such as a bell and a bird call, one after the other. Ask your child to identify the first and the last sound. Give two or three directions at a time, such as, "Roll the ball, jump once, and clap your hands."

Building phonemic awareness doesn't require worksheets or time-consuming instruction. Use these ideas when you're in the car, waiting at the doctor's office, or playing together. Keep a playful approach and stop before your child loses interest.

Many of the ideas on this page were adapted from www.sightwords.com. Please visit this site for more information and ideas. Visit Reading Rockets to watch a short video demonstrating simple word games parents and teachers can play with children. (<http://www.readingrockets.org/reading-topics/phonemic-awareness>)

ARE YOU A #PROUDPARENT?

Share with us!



Throughout the month of June, Bright Horizons will be sharing stories of Proud Parents just like you on Facebook and Instagram.

Is your child graduating Kindergarten Prep this year? Did your baby take their first steps? Did your toddler donate his toys to others? Does your preschooler's endless imagination never cease to amaze you? What does your child do that makes you proud? Simply tag us at @BrightHorizons on Facebook or Instagram and use the hashtag #ProudParent and we'll share your glowing moments of parental pride.

My daughter rode a bike without training wheels today! #ProudParent @BrightHorizons



Science | Technology | Engineering | Math

Trying to decide how and when to introduce your child to STEM subjects?

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of our recent Family Matters Webinar, *A Parent's Guide to STEM Education*, which explored how to help your child learn STEM at every age and stage.