

# Bright Horizons at Oak Brook News

## From the Director

We are pretty sure that spring is here, though some days it seems questionable. However, we know the warm weather is coming and we have summer fun to look forward to.

I do need to remind parents that if you are contracted for the full time 6-10 hours per day that you must stay within that time frame daily. If you need certain days extended or every day, please see the office for an adjustment. Our staffing does depend on the maximum of 10 hours a day usage and many families do regularly exceed this time. Please look at your usage and let us know if you need extended rates or if you need to cut back on usage hours.

We are currently planning for summer and fall enrollment and staffing. Please be sure we have your re-registration information returned to us.

Please remember the referral bonus of a \$200 tuition credit. We hope that you will consider recommending us to your friends, family and co-workers. Thank you so much!!

## Important Dates

**April 6, 7 – Jewelry Show**

**April 11 – 15 – Week of the Young Child**

**April 11 – 15 – Open House**

**April 22 – Earth Day and Passover**

**April 27, 28 – Spring photos with Connie (no pre-registration required)**

**May 2 – 5 – Teacher Appreciation Week**

**May 6 – Mother's Day breakfast**

## Reasons to Celebrate

We always celebrate the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) sponsored event called "The Week of the Young Child (WOTYC). At our center, we traditionally pick a favorite children's author to focus on for the week's curriculum. This year we have chosen Eric Carle as our featured author. The classrooms will all embrace some of his many works and enjoy a full curriculum with the themes of the books.

## Bright Horizons at Oak Brook

1520 Kensington Rd Suite 103 Oak Brook, IL 60523

630-575-0250 oakb@brighthorizons.com

Monday – Friday 6:30 am – 6:30 pm



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Infant

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How do they get all of those cute footprint and handprint art projects? The infants use their senses to explore the world. They learn to paint with their fingers to experience different textures and develop their small muscles. Our teachers love to bring new art ideas to the curriculum.



## Toddler

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Our toddlers love flannel board stories and songs. They increase their vocabulary, listen intently and particularly respond to music and rhymes. They learn by participating in group songs, stories and games. They love repetition and familiarity so you cannot do their favorite songs and finger plays too often!



## Preschool

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Our preschoolers are embracing the science curriculum, especially with our new STEM lab. In this photo the children are investigating the weather by “making it rain” in their classroom. In the STEM lab and the classroom they are investigating properties and exploring many scientific tools



## Kindergarten

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The Kindergarten class continues to embrace the many new scientific tools and materials in the new STEM lab. They become scientists when they put on their lab coats, goggles and choose the many aspects of the lab. We continue to add new items to maintain their enthusiasm and increase their investigations.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Where in the World? Geography in the Early Childhood Classroom

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In the July, 2015 issue of *Young Children*, Pamela Brillante and Sue Mankiw discuss the value of fostering a sense of place in young children, of helping them develop deep roots and a sense of belonging to their community and environment. This sense of place gives children the tools they need to later “protect natural and cultural resources, reduce violent conflicts, and improve the quality of life worldwide.”

In short, the purposes of studying geography in early childhood are:

- To help children understand and appreciate their local community.
- To foster a sense of wonder and curiosity.
- To increase children’s knowledge of the world as a vast space with varied peoples and cultures.

When we think of geography, we tend to think of maps and globes or geographic regions. For young children, though, geography should include a study of both physical geography – maps, regions, land features, and climates – and human geography – the study of how humans interact with each other and the world.

Viewed through this lens, geography isn’t a subject taught in isolation. Geography happens every day as you read, cook, sing, learn, and explore with your child. Below are a few ideas for studying geography with your young child:

- Work to create a “sense of place” in your home. Display photos, artwork, and mementos that reflect your family’s interests and values. What defines your family culture? Perhaps it’s the library of books that speaks to your love of learning or the game cupboard or sports equipment that reflects your family’s hobbies.
- Explore both the natural and human geography near your home. Walk through leaves in the fall, visit a nearby pond, or turn over rocks to find bugs. These simple activities create a sense of deep security for children and encourage a lifelong love of nature. Get to know the people who live and work in your community. When you visit a nearby bakery, hardware store, coffee shop, or post office, talk with the people who are helping you. These relationships help ground people within their community.
- Display maps and globes in your home. Point out places that you’ve visited or lived. Share photos and mementos from those places. Create books that depict stories of your trips or special events.

The study of geography, like most learning, enriches our understanding of ourselves and our world. In [“Pedagogy of Ecology.”](#) Ann Pelo described her return to her childhood home: “I remembered with a child’s open-hearted joy how it feels to give yourself over to a place, to be swept into an intimate embrace with the earth. I understood that place shapes our identity.” Children lucky enough to experience this deep connection become securely-grounded adults who can extend that deep respect for place to all cultures and regions of the earth.

# BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



## It's Open House Month!

Throughout April, Bright Horizons' around the country will be holding Open House Weeks for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Check in with your center director for exact dates and times.



*Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. Small changes can lead to a big impact!

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

## COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

Each year we take the month of May 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.

May is almost here! Make sure to mark your calendars. ☺

## CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

