

Bright Horizons at Wilton

August 2012



Wondering how to encourage social responsibility within your child? Bright Horizons has hosted two parent webinars on the topic with suggestions on how your whole family can give back to others and the environment. Visit www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar or click on these links.

[Raising a Socially Responsible Child Part 1](#)

[Raising a Socially Responsible Child Part 2](#)

A Note From Alishia...

What a great July at the Center! We had great weather (for the most part) and every class was able to get outside to explore in the sand and water!

The Center enjoyed visits from Hula Dancers, Dinosaurs and Curious Creatures, with the Toddlers and Preschoolers able to explore and experience new animals, ideas and cultures. ☺

We have just as many exciting enrichments planned for August, with more focus on physical play and sports as we celebrate the Olympics here at the Center.

This month we have transitions happening across all programs in the Center, as we say goodbye to the last of our Preschool graduates who are heading off to Kindergarten. We also have our older fours and threes in Preschool transitioning to new classrooms. As well as this, our oldest Infants and Toddlers are also making the move up to their next program. It is an exciting time!

Please feel free to see Alishia or Chris if you have any questions about transitions. Have a wonderful August!

Alishia,
Center Director

Dates to Remember...

August 1st – Soccer Skills w/ Chris

August 15th – Safari Rides visit

August 20th – Jersey Day

August 23rd – Bridgeport Bluefish player visit

August 31st – Touch-A-Truck

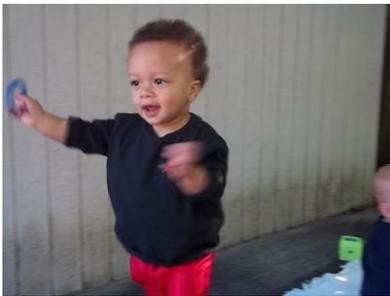
Hip-Hop Dance Date TBA

Happy Birthday to You!

- Mariah A, August 8th, 5 years old!
- Miss Sarah, August 8th ☺
- Jonathan S, August 9th, 5 years old!
- Miss Audrey, August 12th ☺
- Jake M, August 12th, 5 years old!
- Madison S, August 12th, 2 years old!
- Daniel L, August 16th, 5 years old!
- Gerry P, August 21st, 3 years old!

Infants - Our World Outside

Baby Scientists: The outdoor world is their laboratory. A quilt to lie on, a barrier for protection, and an adult to interact with, are the only tools required. Laying babies on their backs, allows them to see the colors in the sky, lights, butterflies, insects, lights, shadows, clouds, branches, plants, airplanes, helicopters, and a myriad of all that the world beholds. They might feel the warmth of the sun or a bit of mist and rain. They hear the sounds of nature, outdoor voices, and perhaps urban sounds. Tummy time outside provides a world of ever changing resources to look at and reach for: blades of grass, insects, rocks, plants, dirt, sand, and other babies. Putting their hands and arms down to lift themselves up is a different experience on grass or sand than on a floor or rug.



Mobile Baby Scientists: The *World* laboratory gives mobile infants the opportunity to experience life from different perspectives. Outdoors there are multiple levels that offer opportunities to pull themselves up to crawl and climb upon, around, over and under, an ever-changing environment.

With hands, knees, mouth, eyes, nose, ears and many other body parts, mobile baby scientists experience the world. The outdoor world is full of things to feel, smell, touch and taste; it beckons the senses of babies. They need to explore sand, dirt, trees, fences and all that the outdoor world beholds.



READY for SCHOOL

The Great Kindness Challenge

Can there ever be too much kindness in the world? Are our children too young to understand and participate in intentional acts of kindness? We think not, and have enthusiastically jumped into the [Great Kindness Challenge](#), which is an annual one day event devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. This year, the Great Kindness Challenge occurs on Sunday, August 12th.

Here are some ideas for joining in the challenge with your child:

- Find out what your child thinks kindness is. Ask how they show kindness to other people. How do they show kindness to the earth, pets, etc? Children of all ages can participate; even toddlers have a huge capacity for kind deeds.
- Share a picture book about kindness. Here are some titles of picture books focused on kindness:
 - **Heartprints** by P.K. Hallinan. The main point of this book is to show that a positive word or actions can leave an imprint (in this case, a heartprint) on someone else.
 - **How Kind** by Mary Murphy is a story of a group of animals who decide to do something nice for another animal. It is a good introduction to how being kind on purpose can spread good feelings to others.
 - **Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed** by Emily Pearson. In this story, Mary takes some run of the mill blueberries to her neighbor, who then makes blueberry muffins. The muffins are shared not with just one person, but with four other people. Each of these four people then helps five other people. This simple story shows how one ordinary act of kindness can potentially reach around the world if others act to do something too and pay it forward to others.
- Explain to your child what the *Great Kindness Challenge* is all about. Review their website together for all the information you need. The event website offers an extensive list of easy ideas. Simple acts, such as warm smiles, might just impact another's day in unseen ways.
- Remember that you are modeling behavior for your child all the time. Simple acts like letting someone ahead of you in line at the grocery store or visiting with an elderly relative are easy things we can do that also set a powerful example.
- Catch your child being kind and reinforce this behavior with praise.

Even the smallest acts of kindness are valuable. Whether you choose to do something big or small, enjoy the opportunities we have to pay it forward and make someone's day.

"A warm smile is the universal language of kindness."

William Arthur Ward



Bright Horizons News

Coming Soon! 2012 Curriculum Nights September-October 2012

- Join us for an in-depth exploration of our curriculum and experience how your child will learn and grow in their current classroom.
- Presentation led by our Center Directors that provides an overview of our curriculum and the developmental progression of learning for each age group.
- Review of *Bright Learner*, our tools & processes for understanding, planning and communicating your child's developmental journey with you.
- Time in your child's classroom to meet our teachers and see how they foster your child's growth and development through the *World at Their Fingertips* curriculum each day.
- Meet members of your Family Partnership Group and families from your child's classroom, ask questions parent-to-parent and hear about their experiences.

To learn more about these events, [click here!](#)

Bright Horizons Parent Referral Program

Did you know that you can earn money simply by telling people how much you love your early education and preschool center?

Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families into our community. And, year after year, we've found the best way to meet new families is through you. If you know of a family that would benefit from exceptional child care, we encourage you to refer them by visiting www.brighthorizons.com/prp or offering them a parent referral card, available from your center director.

Once you fill out the form online, or they send in the postcard, we will send them a personalized email inviting them to discover and visit Bright Horizons. If the family enrolls, they'll enjoy \$50 off their registration fee and you'll receive a \$200 tuition credit when they enroll full time!

Please contact your center director with question or for more information about this program.