

Bright Horizons at Wilton

September 2014



From the Director

Dear Families,

Hello and welcome to the start of the new school year! We are so excited to spend another year with all of you and your children. We said goodbye to many friends in the past few weeks and have welcomed new ones, as well. We wish all of the departing children good luck in their future endeavors and look forward to all of the wonderful experiences we will have with our new friends and families.

We are excited to announce that our SmartBoard has been installed in the Kindergarten Prep classroom. All age groups will have the opportunity to experience and explore the SmartBoard. We are excited to use this tool and integrate this technology into our curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the teacher's luncheon. Everything was delicious and it was greatly appreciated by all!

I also want to thank all of you who attended our many family gatherings this past year. We appreciate your support and commitment.

Cindy

Important Dates

September 1: Center closed for Labor Day

September 8: Librarian visit

September 16: Life Touch Picture Day

September 16: Family Matters Series webinar
(see page 4 for more information)

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday!

Conor Filip – September 19th – 5 years old

William Chemg – September 23rd – 4 years old

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights

collected tickets



Infants

During the camp week of **Music, Drama & Dance**, Infants listened to Hawaiian music and had a Hawaiian Luau in their classroom. They wore Hawaiian leis and bounced to the music. They also watched the Hula dancers in our front lobby. It was a day of wiggling, shaking and smiles.



Toddlers

Toddler One used their creativity with nature. They mixed “**Our World**” and “**Art Smart**”, by using pinecones as painting tools. They dipped a pinecone into blue sparkle paint and then stamped it on to paper. Some children smeared the paint making big swirls, while others just tapped the paper with the pinecone.

Preschool

As part of “**Science Rocks**”, Preschool Three children explore shadows. They use large white paper against a cardboard box and the teacher shines a flashlight. Each child has a turn to use their fingers and hands to create different animal shadows. All of this was part of our “Camping” week of summer camp.



Kindergarten Prep

Every Thursday during summer camp, Kindergarten Prep children pretended to drive an ice cream truck to each classroom. Through “**Dramatic Play**”, they shook bells, collected tickets and delivered ice cream cups. Everyone practiced saying “Please” and “Thank you”. Each child had the opportunity to engage in the activity. It was a day that everyone looked forward to.

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.

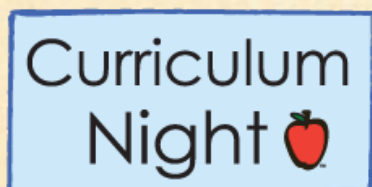
Schickedanz, J. A. & Casbergue, R. M. (2005). *Writing in Preschool: Learning to Orchestrate Meaning and Marks*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association

Bright Horizons News



Curriculum Night 2014: “A Day in the Life”

Experience a “Day in the Life” of your child at Curriculum Night 2014. Parents in all age groups are invited to join us 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!



Parenting: Being Proactive and Positive
Tuesday, September 16, 1:00 pm EST

www.brighthorizons.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.