

From the Director



Summer is right around the corner! We feel summer is a special time of year for children and an opportunity to engage in new and different experiences. By using the outdoors as an extension of the classroom, we provide opportunities for all children to learn and grow in new ways during the summer, while maintaining the same quality care provided all year. Please remember to pack the appropriate gear for your child to participate in outside activities. These items include a bathing suit, towel, sunscreen (no aerosol sprays please) and appropriate water shoes. Please also remember appropriate summer footwear. For active, outdoor play (climbing, running, and jumping on various surfaces), we do require sneakers or sandals with backs.

Please note that we are also going to be starting up our Parent Partnership Group again in the fall. Since we know everyone is busy, we are going to have the first meeting via conference call. The first call will be Wednesday, September 11th at 12pm. Stay tuned for further details and the call-in number. The parent partnership group provides an opportunity for all families to be a part of a forum in the center to discuss centerwide activities, family education, center updates, and much more! We look forward to you joining the call.

– Kristen King

Important Dates

- Monday 6/17 – Father’s Day Snack
- Wednesday 6/19 – PreK Graduation/Art Show
- Thursday 6/20 – Kindergarten Graduation
- Friday 7/5 – End of the Year Preschool Aloha Party
- Friday 8/23 – Summer Carnival
- Monday 9/2 – Center Closed (Labor Day)
- Wednesday 9/11 – Parent Partnership Group Call

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to You!!!

Children:

Madelyn P 6/6
Izaiah G 6/7
Ben G 6/10
Genevieve S 6/15
Justin L 6/15
Antonio M 6/19
Tatiana U 6/19
Cha’nyah M 6/20
Owen S 6/22

Faculty:

Karleen (Preschool) 6/18
Laura (Toddlers) 6/19

Classroom Highlights



Preschool C experiments with sounds and vibration!

It's a well known fact that from the time they are babies, children love cause and effect! Cause and effect is how children learn to control and interact with their environment, and understanding cause and effect helps to develop problem solving skills. Ms. Amber and Ms. Emily conducted this fun experiment to give the preschoolers a visual of how sound is created when they bang a drum!



READY for SCHOOL News

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Beginning Geometry



Preschoolers develop early concepts of geometry as they manipulate shapes and become increasingly aware of spatial relationships.

Van Hiele's (1986) Levels of Geometric Thinking may help you understand the stages of development you will see in your child:

- Level 0 – Children learn to recognize geometric shapes by viewing them as a whole.
- Level 1 – Children learn individual characteristics of shapes such as “a triangle has three sides.”
- Level 2 – Children learn more complicated relationships between the characteristics of a shape – for instance, they may come to understand that a square is a rectangle because it has all the same properties of a rectangle.

Most preschoolers are operating at level 0. Children in the primary grades are typically at level 1. Providing children with opportunities to explore and experiment with shapes and their properties allows them to move through the stages, but movement is typically slow.

A few suggestions follow for activities and materials to encourage geometric thinking in young children:

- Block play is great for shape recognition. Children learn much just through their own spontaneous, independent block play. For example, the simple process of matching and sorting similar blocks at clean-up time builds geometric thinking. When you have time, asking open-ended questions may help to spur children's thinking to the next level. Ask questions such as:
 - “How is your block tower different from mine?”
 - “What will happen if I take out the bottom block?”
 - “Can you tell me what I need to do to make my block building look just like yours?”
 - “Can you put 2 blocks together and make another shape?”
 - “We are getting ready to clean up now – how will you remember what you built?”
- Make spatial vocabulary a regular part of the language you model for your child. Acting out stories such as “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” for example, offers numerous opportunities for children to show their understanding of “under,” “over,” “across,” “near,” “far,” etc.
- Ask shape questions as part of your play together. For example having shape blocks or cardboard or paper shapes available, ask “Have you seen this shape before?” “Where have you seen it?” “Can you find a shape like this in our home?” “Do you think this shape would roll or slide?” “Can we stack these shapes?” “Can you cut this paper to make another shape?” “Can you make a square (circle/triangle) with pipe cleaners/yarn?”

Resources:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

van Hiele, P. M. (1986). *Structure and Insight: A theory of mathematics education*. Orlando, FL: Academic.

Family Resources



Introducing: Family Resources on BrightHorizons.com!

In addition to providing stimulating and loving environments for children to learn and thrive, at Bright Horizons we are proud to also provide an online community where families can connect with resources and share ideas. To further this effort, we have launched a brand new *Family Resources* area on BrightHorizons.com.



Family Resources has been designed to help you find parenting tips, education articles, learning activities and engage in conversations. It includes:

- **Learning at Home Activities:** A database of learning activities to provide during teachable moments that naturally emerge from everyday life situations, covering key developmental and academic areas including social skills, language acquisition, science, math, learning to read and more.
- **eFamily News Articles:** A weekly article providing advice, strategies, tips, resources and news about current parenting issues you may be facing.
- **Parenting Webinars:** A parenting video series designed for growing families with topics such as potty training, breastfeeding, child nutrition, early learning, and positive discipline.
- **Online Community:** A social network for parents and educators to share ideas, get perspectives and ask questions.
- **Parenting Blog:** Working parents share their everyday challenges to succeed professionally and personally.
- **Parenting Resources for Growing Children:** Parent resources and children's activities designed to help you continue your child's learning and discovery at home. Includes:
 - *Growing Readers*
 - *Growing Learners*
 - *Growing Scientists*
 - *Growing Givers*

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