

# Bright Horizons at Metropark

May 2013



## From the Director:

**Hooray for Spring! Here are some friendly reminders to keep our children safe and happy outdoors:**

~Please be sure to notify your child's teacher when you are dropping off or picking up your child from the playground. Also, be sure to sign your child in and out in the book that is located in the classroom.

~All sunscreen forms must be updated annually and given to your child's teacher along with sunscreen labeled with your child's full name. Please note that aerosol cans are not permitted.

~Please be sure to send your child in weather appropriate clothing to play outdoors everyday.

~ Provide footwear that is safe and resilient enough for the child to run around a playground of various surfaces and to allow the child to climb equipment, ride a trike, and participate in other outdoor activities. Closed footwear such as sneakers are preferred in warmer weather to prevent accidents on the playground: however, closed backed shoes would be acceptable as well.

## Important Dates

- ~**May 6** Employee Appreciation website opens. Details coming soon.
- ~**May 7** Parent Partnership Meeting 4:00-6:00pm
- ~**May 10** Mother's Day Breakfast
- ~**May 13-17** Teacher Appreciation Week
- ~**May 23** Well Aware Event
- ~**May 27** Center Closed
- ~**June 7** Pre-K Graduation

## Reasons to Celebrate

- ~ **Happy 1 Year Anniversary to Miss Lisa!**
- ~ **Miss Mary Jo will attend her Awards of Excellence Celebration for Directors and Regional Managers on May 15<sup>th</sup>**
- ~ **Awards of Excellence Celebration for our Center teaching team will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

The babies have been exploring in many different ways! We played with water in the sensory table, read lots of books, played with stacking color pegs and stacking blocks. Spring has sprung and we have been exploring our outside environment as well. Our outdoor activities have included buggy rides, blowing bubbles, and the older babies have had the opportunity to ride the bikes.

The infants are growing and developing at a rapid pace so it is very important that you update your baby's feeding schedule every month. Please see Miss Elsa and Miss Daphne for details.

Please send weather appropriate clothing for your child to play outside everyday. Also please update the extra clothing that is stored in the cubby. Thank you!

## Toddlers

The toddlers have been very busy learning about the Spring season in all of the learning environments. In Dramatic Play and Language Works we talked about how we dress in the Spring time and what the weather is going to feel like compared to the Winter season. The most popular learning center right now is Science Rocks. The children planted a variety of seeds within the past month. We have flowers growing in Toddler 1 and vegetables growing in Toddler 2. The children are learning to be responsible by making sure our plants get water each day. We look forward to our plants blossom over the next couples of weeks and hope to move them to our garden in our playground.

## Preschool

For the month of May we will be working on special projects for Mother's Day. In the Science Area we have planted grass, flowers, peppers, beets, tomatoes, and squash. We will continue to water the plants, and collect data from their growth and write it on the graph. The children will be responsible to help water plants. For last two weeks of April we have been working on the letter "R" and for the first two weeks of May we will be working on the letter "K, and A". We will be focusing on the letter sounds, letter identification and learning how to form letter words to add them in the chart.

**~Homework is given every Friday and can be returned any time during the following week.**

**~We will be doing Show and Share every Wednesday based on a letter of the week. Please see Miss Katy for details.**

We are looking forward to continue planting inside and outside our classroom now that the weather is getting better. Our students have been very responsible with watering their own plants and watching the process as everything grows throughout the weeks. Please be sure to check out our garden.

## Pre-kindergarten

As we get closer to Kindergarten our students are getting more and more excited for graduation. We are proud to say that graduation practices with our students have been a huge success. We've also been prepping our students for our cafeteria trip coming up soon. More details to follow. Earth day week was a very interesting topic to our students. Our students have been very conscientious about their garbage and have asked us which garbage can their waste should go into. We've encouraged and helped them to recognize how to sort their own trash and they are taking this responsibility very seriously. They are now eager to recycle and reuse old garbage. They even had a chance to help clean up our playground to make our play area a cleaner and better place!

# What is School Readiness?



## **READY for SCHOOL Parent News: What does School Readiness Really Mean?**

A report that grew out of a partnership of 17 states identified five factors most important in children who are ready for school or what the report calls “Ready Children”. These factors included:

- **Overall physical well-being and motor development:** Children possessing age-appropriate fine motor skills which involve coordinating their eyes and hands to complete tasks such as stacking blocks; putting together puzzles; connecting building toys like Legos®; drawing and using a paint brush; or writing, typically experience success in school.
- **Social and emotional development:** Children who interact positively with other children typically also do well in a school setting. Many of the skills children learn from their families and in child care such as taking turns, sharing, listening to others, developing empathy, and functioning as part of a group, help with school success.
- **Approaches to Learning:** The ability to follow through on one-step directions (“Hang up your coat”) or multi-step directions (“Get some crayons, take them to the writing table and have a seat”) is another school readiness indicator. Cooperativeness, persistence, independence, curiosity and creativity are also important.
- **Cognition and General Knowledge:** Developing an observant, inquisitive mind which looks at, labels, asks questions, notes similarities and differences, and solves problems is another important school skill.
- **Language Development and Literacy:** The development of a significant talking (expressive) and understanding (receptive) vocabulary is important as well as later recognizing the relationships between letters and sounds.

Not surprisingly, only one of these factors, recognizing the connection between letters and their sounds, is what we typically think of as a school readiness skill. Instead, a well-rounded child who interacts well with others, follows directions, effectively uses her hands to manipulate small parts, and has an inquisitive mind, possesses key readiness skills.

Also not surprisingly, the report states that families can play a critical role in preparing their children for school success is by reading to them daily, starting when children are infants and toddlers. Enrollment in high quality child care programs is another factor in school success.

For more information, you won’t want to miss the May 7th webinar, **Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs** with Ellen Galinsky. This session will provide even further insight into the key school and life readiness skills that may be less familiar to parents. To register, **please visit** [www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking](http://www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking).

Families and teachers working together can help ensure that all our children are *READY for SCHOOL*.

Reference: *Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative – A 17 State Partnership.*

(February 2005). Sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

# Parent Webinar Series



**JOIN US for our next Parent Webinar!**

**MIND in the Making**

Bright Horizons, in conjunction with Families and Work Institute invites you to join Ellen Galinsky for our next parent webinar about the skills adults and children need in order to succeed in the 21st century.

**Mind in the Making: Executive Function and the Seven Essential Life Skills  
Every Child Needs  
Tuesday, May 7, 2013  
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. EST**

For over a decade, Ms. Galinsky has worked with top researchers from across the country, filming their experiments and studying their results how we learn best. In her recently released highly acclaimed best selling book, *Mind in the Making* (Harper Collins 2010), she identifies seven life skills that are essential to success—in school, the workforce and in life.

During the webinar, Ellen will outline the meaning and importance of Executive Function of the brain and why they underlie Life Skills, describe the seven essential Life Skills, as well as provide parents with easy everyday things they can do to foster these Life Skills in their children and themselves. Attendees will see videos of researchers “in action” sharing studies on the topic, and gain the ability to apply what is presented not only to parenting techniques but adult learning as well. In addition, 5 lucky webinar attendees will receive a free copy of *Mind in the Making*.

**To register for this webinar, please visit [www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking](http://www.brighthorizons.com/mindinthemaking).**

**Presenter Bio: Ellen Galinsky, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute (FWI)**

*Ellen Galinsky helped establish the field of work and family life while at Bank Street College of Education, where she was on the faculty for twenty-five years. Her more than forty-five books and reports include the highly acclaimed *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, *Ask The Children* and the now classic *The Six Stages of Parenthood*. She has published over 125 articles in academic journals, books and magazines. At the Families and Work Institute, she oversees the largest nationally representative studies of the U.S. workforce and workplace.*

*Ms. Galinsky holds a Master of Science degree in Child Development/Education from Bank Street College of Education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Study from Vassar College and numerous honorary doctoral degrees. She is a past President of the National Association of the Education of Young Children. Ellen Galinsky is married to artist Norman Galinsky, and they are the parents of two grown children: Philip and Lara.*

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**Did you know...** Bright Horizons has a new website! Visit our new **Family Resources** page to access resources for growing families including: parent webinar archives, eFamily news articles, learning at home activities and more!

**Check out our Facebook page for your chance to ‘Discover Family Resources and Win’ an iPad mini! (Contest ends 5/3)**