

A Great Place for a Childhood

February 2014



From Brandi's Desk

Parent Survey

Thank you for taking time to fill out your parent satisfaction survey. We have an over 75% return rate. When the results are tabulated and returned, we will schedule a Parent Partnership meeting to review the results and make an action plan.

Well Aware

Did you know that over 140 adults enter the building two times a day? We all carry germs into the classrooms. The best way to stop the spread of germs is to wash our hands each time we enter the classroom and have our children wash their hands. We also have hand sanitizer dispensers at the front door and near the check out station for adult use.

Summer Camp

Believe it or not, it's time to think about summer. Bright Horizons' updated **Camp Explorations** is a fun and exciting camp designed to meet both children's interests and parent's expectations.

Our **Summer Adventures** camp for Preschool/Kindergarten Prep and **X-treme Summer Fun** camp for School-Age both have focus areas, activities and special events to engage children but with the flexibility our parents need.

Registration information coming soon!

Important Dates

February 3-24: Awards of Excellence Nomination Period

February 5: Science Program

February 7: X-Treme Summer Fun School Age Summer Camp priority enrollment ends for current Afterschool Children and Siblings of currently enrolled children.

February 5-26: NAEYC reaccreditation visit

February 27: Kindergarten Prep & Preschool Showcase 5:00pm

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

February 11 Anita (I-2)

Happy Anniversary to...

February 13 DeAntony (8 Years)

Connect with Bright Horizons





How do Bright Horizons' programs and teachers *inspire* children to become enthusiastic learners?

Join us Thursday, February, 27th at 5:00pm

AGENDA:

- 5:00-6:30 p.m. Classroom Exploration and Inspiration Stations
Bring your child to Preschool 1, Preschool 2 and Kindergarten Prep and explore the classrooms, meet the teachers and create a “Math” snack to enjoy with your child. Explore at your own pace, register to win a prize.

YOU SHOULD ATTEND IF YOU ARE:

- ✓ **A Toddler parent** who would like to learn more about our Preschool program
- ✓ **A Preschool parent** looking to learn more about our Kindergarten Prep program
- ✓ **New to Bright Horizons** and interested in our Kindergarten Prep and Preschool programs
- ✓ Looking to **meet the teachers** in our programs
- ✓ Looking for an understanding of what your child is **learning** and how to **continue the learning** at home
- ✓ Wanting a chance to see **your child in action** and explore activities right beside them

To learn more about our curriculum, check out our Curriculum Guide: www.brighthorizons.com/curriculumguide

Toward a Better World



Promoting Acceptance by Teaching Kindness

We, as well as our children are part of a rich diverse society, where we most likely interact with people from many cultures, backgrounds, and walks of life. Most parents share a universal hope to raise children who have open hearts and minds; who don't judge people by their accent, clothing, skin color, age, or physical appearance, children who are kind to everyone.

Children learn to be accepting, kind people by observing and modeling the important adults in their world. Simply telling children to "be kind" or "play with everyone" are good first steps, but do not lead to lasting effects on the development of children's attitudes. Observing adults being kind, compassionate, accepting, and inclusive toward other people is much more powerful.

One way to start promoting acceptance and kindness is to reflect on both the direct and subtle messages that we give children every day. Consider the messages we convey to children by our words, jokes, comments, tone, body language, facial expressions, and physical actions.

In addition to our everyday interactions, below are some ideas that might help promote acceptance and teach kindness:

- Acknowledge kind acts - both big and small.
- Use a kindness vocabulary; talk about empathy, compassion and kindness.
- Talk with children about their emotions. Children need to be aware of their own emotions before they can empathize with and respond to someone else's.
- Read stories and discuss how your child thinks people were feeling or might have acted differently. Ask what they would have done or said in a certain situation.
- Role-play scenarios with older children. Talk about how different people might feel in a specific situation.
- Talk about the plight of other people. If you see a homeless person or a person in a wheelchair, ask your child how that person might be feeling.
- Keep a gratitude journal in which family members can record what they are grateful for.
- At mealtimes or before bed, reflect together on the best parts of the day, and the parts when we might have made other choices.
- As a family, get involved in appropriate community social service projects (cleaning streams, donating used toys and books to a charity, keeping a penny jar to raise funds for a charity, visiting a nursing home, or Crafts with Kindness, etc.).
- Be helpful and kind in your day to day life – teach children thoughtful acts, such as standing up if an adult needs a seat on a bus or train, helping to carry groceries, or making a card for someone who is ill.
- Notice and embrace the differences in people. The world is a richer, better place because we are all different.

There is an old adage, "Children learn what they live." None of us are perfect, but we can all strive to raise our children in families where compassion, kindness and acceptance are integral parts of our family culture.

Bright Horizons News



Crafts with Kindness—Helping Busy Families Grow Big Hearts

Empathy is like a muscle; it needs to be exercised and trained to grow. [Crafts With Kindness](#) teaches children important values such as community responsibility, empathy, and gratitude. It encourages communication between family members and leads to important conversations about the value of doing for others.

This Valentine's Day, you can put your child's imagination to work and help make giving back a special part of your celebrations with *Crafts With Kindness*. Our all-in-one craft kit includes the materials needed to complete a meaningful service project that is age-appropriate and teaches children compassion for the world and all its people.

Our 'Messages of Care' kit is on sale now, and includes activities that help children spread kindness with friends, family and their community. To learn more or to purchase a kit, visit www.craftswithkindness.org.



Crafts With Kindness is a collaboration between Bright Horizons® and Doing Good Together. All proceeds benefit [Big-Hearted Families](#) and the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®](#).

Awards of Excellence 2014—Nominate Someone with HEART!



At Bright Horizons, our *Awards of Excellence* program helps us recognize the extraordinary work, dedication, and passion of our employees. We are pleased to invite you to help us recognize the many wonderful early childhood professionals and other dedicated Bright Horizons employees who show their commitment to children and families each day.

As part of our *Awards of Excellence* recognitions, we honor one teacher from each division of the company with the Janice Hill Award. This prestigious award recognizes teachers who demonstrate dedication and passion for early childhood education. It honors teachers who help to create a positive, nurturing environment for the center or school as a whole. They guide and support their colleagues and model respectful interactions with children and families.

Here's your opportunity to acknowledge those who consistently impress you with their extraordinary efforts! **Nominations may be made during our nomination period February 3 – February 24.** Please take a few moments to help us recognize those who impress, support, and care for us with their excellence each and every day. To learn more, or to make a nomination, visit our website: www.brighthouse.com/awards.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to your center/school administration team. Thank you for your time and effort in recognizing outstanding Bright Horizons employees!