

A Great Place for a Childhood

Bright Horizons at Raleigh Corporate Center May 2012
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Setting the table is a great way to introduce chores to young children, but can also teach one-to-one correspondence. Practice counting out one fork, plate and napkin per person then placing them on the dinner table. Don't worry too much about proper placement, focus more on the concept.

For more activities you can do at home, visit www.brighthorizons.com/education/learning.

From the Brandi's Desk...

Last Chance to Receive \$500 Tuition Credit

This is the last month to take advantage of our enhanced family referral program. Refer a family to a Bright Horizons center in the Triangle area before May 31, 2012. If that family enrolls you will receive a \$500 tuition credit (per child). Visit

www.brighthorizons.com/TriangleAreaReferralProgram for details and to begin the referral process.

Want to get your Kids to Listen without Nagging, Reminding or Yelling?

Join us for this **FREE** parent webinar on **Tuesday, May 15 at 9:00 p.m.** Bright Horizons has partnered with Amy McCready, founder of Positive Parenting Solutions and TODAY show contributor to offer Bright Horizons families in the Triangle area this exclusive parent webinar invite. Visit

www.BrightHorizons.com/PositiveParentingSolutions for details and to RSVP.

Important Dates to Note

May 3 Picture Day
May 4 *GardenWorks* Social 4-6pm
May 10 Parent Partnership Group 5pm
May 11 Mother's Day Breakfast
May 14 Sign Language Training for Teachers
May 18 Class Pictures
May 18 Family Picnic
May 25 Pre-K Friendship Ball
May 28 Center Closed
June 1 Pre-K READY for SCHOOL Celebration 10am-12:30pm @Marbles

Happy Birthday to You!

5/27 Lewy P-3
5/30 Kathy Preschool Afternoons

Happy Anniversary to...

5/19 Karina Infants 1 year

Here we Grow again!

Help us welcome the...

The Rowe Family
The Cole Family
The McCall Family



When We Do Specials, We...



- learn how to move our bodies in our own way (Movement Matters)
- explore our own ability to express ourselves creatively (Art)
- gain confidence in our Mathematical knowledge (Everyday Math)
- gain new words, expressions, and ideas (Literacy/Language)
- use balance and strength in our large muscles (Movement Matters)
- learn about creative masters throughout history (Art)
- practice using currently used systems (Library Science)
- obtain a greater understanding of our world community (Art/Library Science)
- practice our knowledge of letters, sounds, and words (Literacy/Language)
- **HAVE SO MUCH FUN!!!!**

Pre-K Specials are an opportunity for our students to practice activities they will experience in Kindergarten. We've focused the classes on the children's interests and abilities—**Art, Movement Matters, Everyday Math, Story Box, and Library Science.**





Noticing and Nourishing Nature

Exploring nature is an on-going activity, and an integral part of the Bright Horizons *Science Rocks* program. We hope you share our expectation that the children's daily experiences are rich in science. "Nature is bountiful. There are shapes and sizes, colors, and textures, smells and tastes, an enormous variety of substances. In a world of catalogues and consumable objects, designed places and programmed areas, sometimes it is helpful to remember that the natural world is full of multi-dimensional, unassailingly educational experiences for children" (Greenman, 2005, p.284).

Nature is alive, vibrant, ever changing and real. When connecting with nature, children develop a connection to something universal and timeless, yet unpredictable, and it stimulates their sense of wonder. Sharing the wonder of our natural world can be very exciting and fun. Helping children make sense of their world is the basis for all future learning. The process of questioning, exploring, and concluding is really learning how to think! Outside children can collect leaves, grasses, and seeds; feel the wind; talk about the warmth of the sun on their skin, search for insects or spiders, explore under rocks, and follow butterflies around the yard. These are natural experiences that help them develop an awareness of the world.

Immersed in the outdoor world, often children develop an inclination to become nurturers. They might plant seeds in soil, water them, watch them grow into flowers, herbs or vegetables. They might discover wildlife in the outdoor environment and create a habitat for their temporary pets, or perhaps find worms, (which are fascinating creatures for children to gently hold and observe). Children have been known to nurture "pet rocks," special rocks found in the outdoor world. Often when involved in the natural world, even boisterous, active children slow down and focus on being gentle and encouraging friends to be gentle too.

Here are some simple ideas that you can use to connect with nature:

- Gardening – Encourage your child to give a drink to their potted friends on your porch or deck.
- Cloud gazing – Finding animals or a shape in the clouds encourages our imagination.
- Bare toes in the grass – Does this tickle? Feel sharp? How does it smell?
- Watching ants work – Be prepared for lots of interesting questions from your child!
- Collecting rocks, shells, and leaves – Gather something plentiful that has variety. Even the simplest objects in nature can be beautiful.

"Nature is science that is alive with sounds, scents and sights. Children learn through active exploration with their environment. Nature is hard, soft, fragile, heavy, light, smooth and rough. Armed with our senses, we explore the world and call the adventure science; or, if you prefer, cognitive development, classification, sensory development, or perceptual-motor learning" (Greenman, p. 284).

"Nature nourishes and heals: Human beings evolved outdoors. Our bodies need sunlight and fresh air. Our minds need the experience and challenges that nature presents. Our souls need the day to day appreciation for the miracle of the world and all its complexity. Without a deep sense of awe at the vastness and majesty of the natural world that humbles us, and a simultaneous ennobling sense that we are intrinsically a part of that world, we are diminished." (Greenman, p 286). As parents, our prime responsibility is to emotionally, cognitively and physically nourish our children. Connecting with nature isn't another activity to fit into the day- it's part of our lives.



Math Counts at Bright Horizons

Math Counts, one aspect of *The World at Their Fingertips* curriculum, is an approach that encourages all of the adults in the child's life to look for and create opportunities to help children understand the math inherent in their everyday lives. From a toddler's conception of more cookies to the one-to-one correspondence in setting a table, children are helped to become increasingly competent in numerical skills and reasoning. *Math Counts* establishes learning centers, projects, activities, and guidelines for teacher interactions that all promote the developmental growth necessary for success in school. Children learn number recognition, one-to-one correspondence, seriation, ordination, and other fundamental math skills.



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Remember to bookmark this site so you can shop all year long while Amazon donates a percentage of every purchase to the Foundation.

Thanks for your support!

