

From the Director

Family BBQ- Our Annual Family BBQ will be held on Wednesday, June 19th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (rain date Thursday, June 20th) at our center. This has always been a great event filled with food and fun for the whole family!

For entertainment we have scheduled Frick & Frack who will be giving train rides in the parking lot for all the children (and parents too), a bounce house, a balloon artist, and a photo booth. We are excited to see you all there!



Summer Program Highlights

Express Yourself Adventures
Around the World Adventures
Great Outdoor Adventures
Animal Adventures
Fun Fitness Adventures

Special Guests

The Bubble Man
Pumpnickel Puppets
Traveling Tide Pool
Hula Dancing

Important Dates

Kindergarten Prep Graduation Ceremony

June 18, 2013 4:00 p.m.

Family Barbeque

June 19, 2013 (Rain date June 20, 2013)

5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Join us for family fun!

Walk for Breast Cancer

June 23, 2013

Thank you to our families for your support in fundraising.

Reasons to Celebrate

Congratulations
to the teacher who will be celebrating her
Bright Horizons anniversary during the
month of June:

Aleida: 2 years!



Classroom Highlights



Infants

The Infants enjoyed using soap and water to wash farm animals in the sensory table. During their *Our World* curriculum, they learned about farm life: different types of animals and animal sounds.



Toddlers

While listening to music, the Toddlers used instruments to make prints on paper. During this *Projections* project, they used different techniques to make the prints and enjoyed listening to the sounds. They also talked about the colors they were using and how they mixed together.

Preschool

The Preschoolers participated in an *Art Smart* and *Science Rocks* project during our nature curriculum. They each created their own foil fish after talking about what lives in a pond.



Pre-kindergarten

Kindergarten Prep enjoyed our *Toward a Better World* curriculum in May where we instilled a sense of friendship and community among the students. They enjoyed working together on many art projects and other activities throughout the week.

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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