

Bright Horizons at Southside Works

August 2015



From the Admin Team

Dear Families,

During the month of August we will be sending out the new tuition rates. These new rates will go into effect on September 1st, 2015. The new rates will be placed in your mailbox along with an explanation of how much it has increased by. Please make sure you read these carefully and if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Sam and Jen.

With the new rates we will also be giving your child's teachers new enrollment agreements with the new rate. Please fill out and sign all of the highlighted areas before giving them back to the teachers.

If you have any questions or concerns about the new rates please contact the center through email or phone or stop by the office to talk to Miss Jen.

Sam and Jen

Important Dates

August 3rd- Pie in the Face Event

7:30-9:30am in the MMZ

August 3rd- 7th- Sam on Vacation

August 7th-21st- Jen on Vacation

August 26th- Kona Ice Truck

Free flavored ice for all families from 4:00-6:00pm.

Reasons to Celebrate

Thanks to all the families to attended our Summer Picnic event! We hope everyone had a great time getting to know each other over yummy food!

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infants

During the month of July the Infant 1 classroom explored the **MATH COUNTS** curriculum by playing with blocks. The older infants **learned to** repeat an action to make the same thing happen again. They **learned this by** using their fine motor skills stack blocks, knock them over, and stack them again.



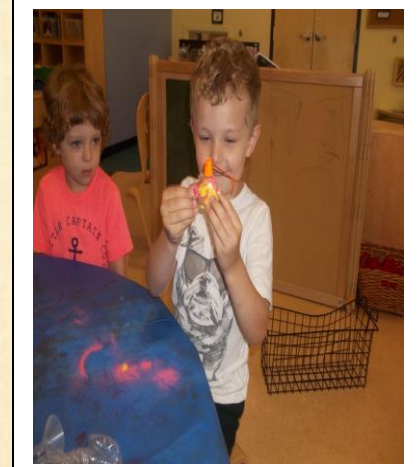
Toddlers

During the month of July the Toddler 3 classroom explored the **MATH COUNTS** curriculum by making playdough. During this activity the two year olds **learned to** understand quantity and count to two, three, and four. They **learned this by** following a recipe and counting and measuring the ingredients. After they made the playdough they used the **SCIENCE ROCKS** curriculum to explore the playdough. They **learned to** understand the basic concepts of balance and weight. They **learned this by** manipulating playdough with tools such as cookie cutters, scissors, and rolling pins.

Preschool

During the month of July the Preschool classroom used the **ART SMART** curriculum to create many art projects. The Preschoolers **learned to** use art materials and tools purposefully and creatively. They **learned this by** creating a fish necklace by using sand and art materials. They also **learned this by** using construction paper, tissue paper, and glue to create their own tree.

During the month of August the Preschool classroom is going to be using the **MATH COUNTS** curriculum. They **will learn to** use standard and non-standard units of measurement. They **will learn this by** following recipes to make smoothies, bread, and ice cream.



Kindergarten Prep

During the month of July the Kindergarten Prep children used the **SCIENCE ROCKS** and **ART SMART** curriculum to make boats and race them. The Kindergarten Prep students first **learned to** purposefully choose art tools and materials to achieve a desired outcome. They **learned this by** using recycled materials to create their own boats. The Kindergarten Prep children then **learned to** explore how objects can move in space. They **learned this by** racing the boats in the water. The children used straws to create wind to push their boats in the water from one end of the sensory table to the other.

READY for SCHOOL News:

The Brain's Control Center – Executive Function Skills

Executive function skills, according to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, “are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.” Kindergarten teachers often refer to executive function skills as “ready to learn” skills because they are the traits children need to listen, answer questions, work collaboratively, focus attention, and process information. If these skills are undeveloped, academic growth, personal relationships, and work habits might suffer.

Executive function skills begin to develop shortly after birth and peak during the preschool years (ages 3 to 6). These skills are nurtured through predictable, loving relationships and engaging, stimulating environments, and often develop through everyday experiences. Children with developmental delays, neurological disorders, such as ASD (autism spectrum disorder), or children experiencing illness, abuse, neglect, or poverty may need extra intentional support to build executive function skills.

Below are a few simple ways to build executive function skills with your child:

- Offer open-ended play materials, such as blocks and dolls. These toys encourage creativity and can be played with in endless ways. In contrast, toys based on movies or television shows are generally used in one, scripted way.
- Encourage pretend play and avoid overscheduling your child. Children need unstructured time every day to play. Young children might need your help to get started, e.g., “I’ll be the baker and you be the customer.” As their play skills grow, children can assign parts, prolong play over several days, or use props symbolically, e.g., a pine cone represents food. Elena Bodrova of *Tools of the Mind* at Metropolitan State College of Denver, found that this type of open-ended play teaches self-regulation and positive social skills as children learn to take turns, compromise, and collaborate.
- Give your child simple jobs around the house, such as wiping a table or sorting socks. Ask your child to follow simple 3-step directions.
- Limit media time and increase the time you spend reading to your child.
- Play board games or work on puzzles that promote problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Offer positive encouragement when your child is able to wait her turn or delay gratification.

Executive function skills aren’t new, but in recent years, they’ve been identified as critical for success in almost every area of life. They’re probably not something you think about, but you’re building them every day for your child as you talk, play, and work together.

References:

Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University. Key Concepts Executive Function. Retrieved at http://developingchild.harvard.edu/key_concepts/executive_function/.

Spiegel, A. (2008). Old Fashioned Play Builds Serious Skills. National Public Radio. Retrieved at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514>.

Tools of the Mind. Self Regulation. Retrieved at <http://www.toolsofthemind.org/philosophy/self-regulation/>

Bright Horizons News



Curriculum Night 2015: “A Day in the Life”

Join us for our Curriculum Night event, where families, from all age groups, will have the opportunity to experience a *day in the life* of their child and learn about the upcoming year with **Bright Horizons®**.

Curriculum
Night 

During the event, you and your family will have the opportunity to: explore our curriculum, ***The World at Their Fingertips®***, discover how literacy education is woven into our curriculum, learn about your child’s daily classroom schedule and activities, and connect with teachers to ask any questions you might have.

Share in your Bright Horizons experience and invite your friends and family to join you at Curriculum Night. Please see our Center Director or your child’s teacher if you have questions or would like more information about Curriculum Night. We will see you there!