

# Bright Horizons at Southside Works

November 2014



## From the Admin Team

Dear Families,

During the month of November we will be holding our annual International Food Festival. It will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30. We ask that all families attending please bring in their favorite dish their families enjoys eating at home. The center will provide all beverages and a chicken tray as well. This is a great time for families to get together and enjoy each other's company. If you and your family are planning on attending please sign up in the lobby by November 12<sup>th</sup>.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we will also be handing out holiday schedules. Please feel these out and get them back to the admin team no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is important that we know what children will be here around the holidays so that we can staff appropriately.

Thank you for everything that you do for the center!

Sam and Jen

## Important Dates

**November 4<sup>th</sup>**- Picture day

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**- International Food Festival (5:00-6:30)

**November 10-23:** Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For? (see pg. 4 for details)

**November 21-25: Scholastic Book Fair**

**November 26:** Thanksgiving (Center Closed)  
(see pg. 4 for details)

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**- Black Friday (Center Closed)

## Reasons to Celebrate

We wanted to thank all the families for bringing in great treats and participating in our Halloween Parade and Party. It was fun to see all the children in costume parading around the MMZ! We hope you enjoyed it!

### Connect with Bright Horizons



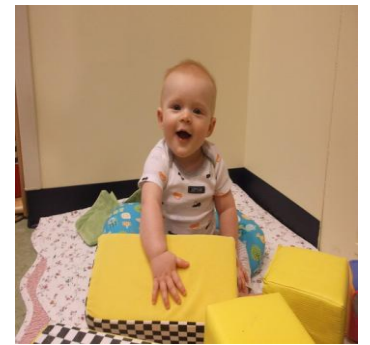
# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

During the month of October the Infant 2 classroom explored the Math Counts curriculum. They used their soft blocks to stack and count. This was also a great Sensory activity. The infants enjoyed exploring the texture of the blocks with their hands.

During the month of November the Infant 2 classroom will explore the Art Smart curriculum by painting with brown and orange paint.



## Toddlers

During the month of October the Toddler 2 classroom explored the Math Counts curriculum. The toddlers practiced sorting by using counting bears and colored trays. The toddlers had to put the colored counting bears in the matching colored tray. When Kyson matched a green one he said "This bear is green!"

During the month of November the Toddler 2 classroom will be exploring Thanksgiving using the Language Works, Art Smart, and Our World curriculum.



## Preschool

During the month of October the Preschool classroom used the Handwriting without Tears curriculum. Each preschooler used the straight and curved wood pieces to create the letter that their first name started with. First they used the alphabet cards to create them. Later in the week they made the letters without the card!

Next month the Preschoolers will be exploring the Language Works curriculum by using their weekly reader to talk about Veterans.



## Kindergarten Prep

During the month of November the Kindergarten Prep classroom explored the Science Rocks curriculum by carving pumpkins. First the children started a KWL chart and talked about what they knew about the insides of pumpkins. Next they made a list of what they wanted to know about pumpkins. After creating these lists, researching, and having detailed conversations, the Kindergarten Prep children cut open a pumpkin to see what was really inside. After they explored the pumpkin they wrote out their final list of what they learned about pumpkins.





## READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Measurement

Preschool children like to compare objects or people and often want to figure out which is bigger, longer, or heavier. They especially love to compare themselves to others – who is taller, whose hair is longer, who is the oldest, etc. We can take advantage of these opportunities to help children learn the basics of measurement. Children typically progress through a series of stages in understanding measurement (Copley, 2000):

- 1) Comprehending that objects can be compared and measured and understanding the meaning of questions like “how long is this?,” “how heavy is that?,” etc.
- 2) Making comparisons themselves, such as judging which block is shorter, which rock is heavier, etc.
- 3) Determining an appropriate unit and process for measurement
- 4) Using standard units of measurement (inch, pound, centimeter, etc.)
- 5) Creating and using formulas to help count units

During the preschool and kindergarten years, children primarily focus on stages 1 and 2 and may begin to work on the concept of “unit” in the third step. Steps four and five are typically focused on in the elementary school years.

What kinds of activities encourage the development of measurement in preschool and kindergarten children? Here are a few samples to get you started:

- Use measurement and comparison language frequently in your incidental conversations with your child.
  - “This grapefruit feels really heavy. Is it heavier or lighter than this orange?”
  - “This tablecloth is too short for this table. Let’s find a longer one.”
  - “Do you think this pitcher will hold all the juice?”
- Include language that compares time (earlier, later, tomorrow, next week); temperature (warmer, colder); and capacity (holds more, holds less).
- Consider introducing non-standard measurement. “This fire truck is four blocks long.” Offer children opportunities to practice non-standard measurement. “Let’s see how many hands long this rug is.”
- You can also incidentally introduce standard measurement language (Talk about gallons, liters, yards, meters, etc. during your daily life as you pour milk or juice, measure wood for a home improvement project, etc.)
- You might provide a plastic bin filled with water or cornmeal as a place for your child to practice with volume and capacity. As children pour from a tall, thin cylinder to a short, fat cylinder, for example, they are developing a concept that Jean Piaget called “conservation.” If a child understands the concept of conservation of volume, he/she knows that a tall, thin container can hold the same as a short, fat container. Piaget’s research showed that children learned to conserve around age seven or later. More recent research has been showing children conserving earlier than that.
- Provide tools for measurement for children’s easy access throughout the day (rulers, meter sticks, bathroom scales, etc.).

### Reference:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

# Bright Horizons News



**Submit your art during Nov. 10-23, and it will be displayed in a Bright Space!**



*Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For?* is an opportunity for the Bright Horizons community, parents and teachers alike, to come together and support the **Bright Horizons Foundation For Children®** by submitting art that illustrates the answer to “What are you thankful for?” The resulting piece of collaborative artwork will be proudly displayed in all **Bright Spaces®** (Bright Spaces are warm, safe, and enriching spaces in shelters and agencies across the country that allow children to heal from trauma through play and experience the joy of childhood).

The Bright Horizons community will be invited to upload the artwork via social media or email it to [thankful@brighthorizons.com](mailto:thankful@brighthorizons.com). Submissions will be accepted from November 10-23. Participation is optional.

## **How to Grow a Giver this Holiday Season:** Family Resources for Teaching Compassion



As a parent, you try to raise your child to become an active, compassionate member of society. [Growing Givers](#) is a resource to help you find age-appropriate activities, projects, and volunteer opportunities to encourage empathy, caring, and compassion for the world and all its people. *Growing Givers* offers ideas for how you can promote empathy and social awareness through your daily interactions and modeling with children and through service opportunities from home or out in the community.

As fall and winter holidays approach, we’ve collected a list of resources from *Growing Givers* that can help you come up with easy ways to incorporate giving into your family’s routine:

- **(Parenting Blog Posts)** [Family Volunteering: Tips for Finding Ways to Give Back](#), [Teaching Manners and Good Behavior Through Books](#), [How to Raise a Grateful Child](#)—join the conversation on *The Family Room* blog: <http://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/>.
- **(Community Topics)** [Volunteering with Small Children](#), [Donating Old Toys to Charity](#)
- **(E-family News)** – [The Caring Connection: Teaching Empathy to Children](#), [Raising Caring and Giving Children](#)
- **(Family Matters Series Webinars)** Raising a Socially Responsible Child ([Part I](#) & [Part II](#))—featuring Bright Horizons early education experts and guests from *The Volunteer Family*

Visit [www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers) for additional resources and at-home activities to promote empathy and social awareness.