

Bright Horizons at Southside Works

March 2015



From the Admin Team

Dear Families,

We just wanted to thank everyone for your participation in our Parent Satisfaction Survey and Awards of Excellence nominations. We value your input and love recognizing our teachers for the amazing jobs they do every day.

We wanted to also congratulate the King and Forester families for winning prizes for completing their surveys!

During the month of March we will also be holding a Preschool/Kindergarten Prep Summer Camp Showcase event! Please join us in exploring what fun activities we have planned for your children this summer!

Sam and Jen

Important Dates

March 2nd- Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

March 23rd- Summer Camp Showcase

March 24th- Spring Picture Day

Reasons to Celebrate

Thank you for everyone who participated in our Preschool/Kindergarten Prep Showcase! It was a HUGE success.



Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Infants

During the month of February the Infant 2 classroom explored the **Science Rocks Curriculum** by filling their sensory table with water. The infants used their hands to explore the water and also dipped toys in the water. The older infants used bowls to scoop and dump the water in the table.

During the month of March the infant classrooms will be exploring **the Language Works** curriculum by focusing on reading and talking about colors.



Toddlers

During the month of February the Toddler 2 classroom explored the **Math Counts Curriculum** by exploring shapes. The toddlers painted with different circle, triangle, square, and rectangle shapes. While they were painting they enjoyed identifying all the shapes.

During the month of March the Toddler 2 classroom will be exploring fish and sea creatures. They will use the **Math Counts** curriculum to count fish and the **Language Works** curriculum to read lots of stories with an ocean theme.

Preschool

During the month of February the Preschool classroom explored the **Language Works** curriculum by playing Rhyming Bingo. The Preschoolers learned to recognize common phonemes (word sounds) by challenging our auditory skills.

During the month of February the Preschool classroom also explored the **Well Aware** curriculum by learning about vegetables. The preschoolers talked about different vegetables and cooked different vegetable like roasted garlic cauliflower.



Kindergarten Prep

During the month of February the Preschool classroom explored the well aware curriculum by learning about dental health. First they enjoyed making elephant toothpaste by mixing peroxide, food coloring, water, soap, and yeast. This was a great way to talk more about dental health. They then discussed how different animals keep their teeth clean and how we keep their teeth clean!

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Caring Matters- Building Healthy Social-Emotional Growth

At Bright Horizons, we take a holistic view of children's development. We recognize that every area of a child's development – from literacy skills to motor skills to social-emotional growth – is important. *Caring Matters*, our curriculum for social-emotional development, offers teachers a solid, research-based program for nurturing children and fostering the skills they need to communicate with others, establish and maintain relationships, and identify and express emotions.

Caring Matters is based on both the classic work of early childhood theorists, as well as current research on children's social and emotional growth; in particular, we value the work of the Center on Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning at Vanderbilt University and noted expert, Dan Gartrell. Below you'll find information on some of the most important components of the *Caring Matters* curriculum:

Nurturing Relationships

Nurturing relationships forms the foundation for children's social and emotional development. At Bright Horizons, we understand that children are most likely to achieve their potential when they feel safe, valued, and respected. We strive to understand each child and each family's strengths, needs, and cultural values. Teachers place special emphasis on "prime times," those moments during the day when teachers can connect with children individually.

Warm, Comforting Spaces

The next step in fostering healthy social and emotional development is developing an environment that feels safe, comfortable, and engaging. Every Bright Horizons school is unique, with its own design and layout. However, in general, supplies, furniture and equipment are clearly organized so children can use them independently. We use documentation boards and other forms of communication to increase a sense of connection and community. The classroom layout includes both active and quiet spaces to meet children's needs throughout the day.

Integrated Social Skills Learning

Learning social skills is a process that takes years. Children learn social skills through many avenues, such as parent/teacher modeling and real-life learning with other children. Our *Caring Matters* curriculum offers teachers an added resource with ideas and solutions for teaching social skills directly to children. Teachers can use puppets, role plays, and many other activities to teach children specific skills, such as asking for help or taking turns. Research shows that children who receive direct social skills teaching show less aggression and do better academically, as well.

Direct Intervention and Positive Guidance

Being part of a group child care setting provides many daily opportunities for children to learn give and take. Children are still learning how to share, and conflicts are an inevitable part of the day. At Bright Horizons, we view these moments as teaching opportunities. Our *Caring Matters* curriculum offers teachers simple, effective strategies to help children learn the skills they need to work with others. We believe that behavior is communication – a young child's way of expressing his needs and wants. Teachers learn how to respond with caring and kindness, offering children solutions that empower them.

We know that as children enter elementary school, the focus is more on academics than social-emotional development. We believe strongly that the early childhood years are a critical time to build children's social and emotional development. When children feel confident, happy, and valued, they're more likely to reach their full potential throughout their school years and beyond.

Bright Horizons News



See How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten – and Beyond!



Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you!

This April, we are hosting an Open House week to welcome new families to learn more about our center. If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining the Bright Horizons family, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Please see your Center Director for details.

Join us for the next installment in our Family Matters Webinar Series in March!

Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

School Readiness: Beyond the Basics

Coming in March 2015

School readiness is so much more than knowing colors, shapes, and ABCs. It's also about social/emotional development, motor skills, and self-expression—which are especially important during those critical first five years, and can determine how well a child does in school and in life. A school-ready child is engaged, eager to learn, willing and able to follow directions, and happily adjusted to group life in a classroom setting.

The next *Bright Horizons Family Matters* webinar will explore how parents and teachers can work together to shape early experiences that provide the foundational skills for confidence and school success.

Registration details will be available in the next couple weeks. You can sign up to be notified when registrations open by visiting www.brighthorizons.com/schoolready.