

# Greenville Memorial Childcare Center

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March 2014

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## “Help Wanted” Prepping of the Garden

Spring is in the air, and planning for the center GardenWorks vegetable garden has started. We are in need of able bodies to help with prepping our garden for planting. Last year, Yonge Jones took time out of his schedule to add fresh garden soil and till the garden in preparation for planting. He has suggested that we add more wooden ties and have more garden soil added to make the garden area deeper so the plants that we grow have more opportunity for growth.

So, with that being said we would like to ask if there are any parents that would like to come on a Friday afternoon (date and time will be determined after we know how many volunteers we have) to help put wooden ties in place, and add the new soil. Once we have completed our project, Yonge will come in with a garden tiller and till the soil before planting.

Please send me an email if you are interested in helping with this project. We would hope to have this completed by the end of March. Thank you!

## Important Dates

**March 10-28:** NAEYC Window Open

**March 20:** Tentative date for Employee Appreciation Parent Committee Meeting. Time 5:30PM. (It will be confirmed once we have parents sign-up for the committee)

**March 22:** Professional Development Day for Staff

**March 24-25:** Kathy out of center

**March 31:** Annual Re-Registration Fees Due

## Reasons to Celebrate

### Happy Birthday!

Kate M. 3/1	Maggie P. 3/11
Claire S. 3/1	Kindle B. 3/19
McDaniel W. 3/2	Ms. Carrie 3/20
Croston L. 3/4	Charlotte S. 3/22
Raegan P. 3/7	Anna Page S. 3/26
Marianne D. 3/11	

### Happy Anniversary!

Lindsey 3/6

### Connect with Bright Horizons



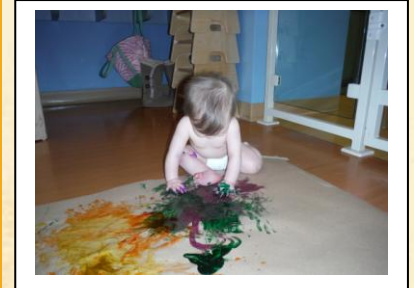


# Our Classrooms are Art Smart!



## Infants

Infant One created a rainbow as a class, using their whole bodies to paint. **They learned to** use their senses to investigate the world around them. **They learned this by** engaging their gross motor skills while lying on the paper and moving their arms. They were able to explore the texture of finger paint while using their hands as the simple tools to create a masterpiece.



## Toddlers

In Toddler Two **the children learned to** investigate the world through their senses and experiment with color. **They learned this by** creating their own visions using ice cubes made with a variety of colors. The children used the different ice cubes, not only creating a colorful picture, but also recognizing the look and feel of an ice cube.



## Preschool

Because of the interest shown among children, preschool studied art for a week. **They learned to** use art materials and tools purposefully and creatively while observing and describing features of artwork. **They learned this by** channeling their inner Michelangelo and Vincent Van Gogh to create masterpieces of their own. To view their artwork, stop by the preschool art gallery in the common area.



## Kindergarten Prep

**The children in Kindergarten Prep learned to** represent an idea using visual media and materials after purposefully choosing art tools and materials to achieve desired outcomes. **They learned this by** creating play dough sculptures, adding their own individuality to the dough. Each child was able to add different art materials, including beads and pipe cleaners. After, they were able to describe exactly what they created!



## **READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Creating an Environment for Learning in Your Home**

As adults, we typically find it is easier to sit down and pay bills, write a letter, or send an email when our work space is attractive and easily accessible. The same is true for children. The environment matters. One step in helping your child get ready for formal schooling can be creating an environment for learning in your home.

Subtle environmental additions communicate that you think learning and learning materials are important. This could be as simple as setting aside a space in your child's room or a corner of the kitchen table for "school activities."

**READY to WRITE:** Provide a small basket or cardboard "school box" with crayons, pencils, post-its, and small pads of paper. An attractive container of colored pencils and washable markers is also likely to attract your child's attention. You could add ABC stencils, a ruler, an eraser, and lined paper for older children, if you'd like. (If you have younger children in your home, keep these out of reach when your preschool or kindergarten child is not using them). This can be the place your child can go to do his/her "school work." Keep it fun and avoid pressuring your child to use these materials. Save them for a relaxed activity where your child can practice as he/she chooses while you are busy cooking dinner or cleaning up.

**READY to READ:** Another helpful addition to the environment is having reading materials readily available. We know that reading aloud to children is a key factor in later embracing reading in their own lives. In addition, children who see their parents reading and enjoying it are more apt to want to read themselves. As you read the newspaper, for example, your child can select from a basket of books or children's magazines to look through. It is important to have books at children's levels that they can access on their own. Even toddlers will enjoy a basket of sturdy board books or plastic books at their level. When children look through the pictures in a favorite book that has been read aloud to them again and again, they often retell the story to themselves, either silently or out loud. Being able to recall and re-tell a story is an important pre-reading skill.

**READY for MATH:** The kitchen is a logical place to add materials for your child to learn math skills such as measuring. Have some plastic measuring cups and spoons for your child's use that are kept in a low, open cabinet or drawer accessible for his/her use. At appropriate times, when you are not too rushed, your child could help you count and measure as you, for example, pour cups of lukewarm water into a pot for cooking pasta. When you have less time to interact, stacking nested measuring cups (ones that fit inside each other), spoons, or small bowls is a good ordering activity for your child to work on independently.

You probably already have many learning opportunities available in your home. Consider presenting them in new and different ways to attract renewed interest from your child. Have fun setting up these learning spaces!

# Bright Horizons News



## Help a Friend Discover Bright Horizons during our Spring Open House Week!



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 Center Director for details.

## Join us for the next installment in our Family Matters Webinar Series on March 26!

### Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

#### Organization Tips for Busy Families

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Being a working parent takes an incredible amount of organization, preparation, juggling and a little bit of daily magic! If you're a busy parent in search for some tips to help organize your family's busy schedule, this webinar is for you! In this webinar we'll provide you with tips and tricks on getting your family organized, including:

- how to make transitions from home to school/child care easier
- tips and resources for meal planning, calendar sharing and overall family communication
- how to manage 'hiccups' in your daily routine, such as school holidays or breakdowns in child care arrangements
- homework management, chore organization and overall tips for keeping your home and family running smoothly

To register, visit [www.brighthorizons.com/organizationtipswebinar](http://www.brighthorizons.com/organizationtipswebinar).\*

\* **The first 100 registrants will win a free 3-month subscription to The Six O' Clock Scramble**—an online family dinner planning service for busy parents that takes the Scramble out of 6:00 with a weekly dinner plan and grocery list delivered right to their email inbox or phone. Visit webinar registration page for additional details.