

Kidopolis News

Week of the Young Child

Music Monday, April 11

Sing, dance, celebrate, and learn

- Stop by your child's class throughout the day for a chance to join in the fun!

Taco Tuesday, April 12

Healthy eating and fitness at home and school

- MENU CHANGE: Tacos for lunch!

Work Together Wednesday, April 13

Work together, build together, learn together

- All families are invited to the TUPD/NOPD Meet & Greet at 2pm, with a special appearance from the NOPD horses for you children to meet!

Artsy Thursday, April 14

Think, problem solve, create

- Stop by your child's class throughout the day for a chance to join in the fun!

Family Friday, April 15

Sharing family stories

- Preschool and K-Prep Families are invited to an outdoor picnic at 11am
- Stop by your child's class throughout the day for a chance to join in the fun!

Important Dates

Saturday, April 9th

Miss Debbie, 9 Years of Service

Tuesday, April 12th

Miss Gaynell, 17 Years of Service

Wednesday, April 20th

Parent Partnership Group Meeting at 2pm

Tuesday, April 26th

Jazz Fest Performer: Judy Stock at 10am
(For Preschool and K-Prep)

Reasons to Celebrate

- NAEYC accreditation has been maintained
- Voted #1 on ThreeBest Rated's top 3 Preschools in New Orleans!

Kidopolis Child Development Center

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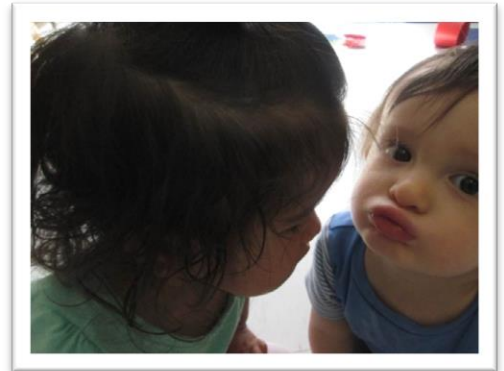
Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

From infancy, children cultivate social and emotional intelligence. How we interact with others is key to our lifelong success and happiness. Knowing how to read social cues, recognize and regulate emotions, negotiate and take turns, and engage in a long-term activity that is mutually beneficial are no easy tasks. There is no substitute for creative and imaginative play when it comes to teaching and enhancing these abilities in children. Note how Charlie attempts to kiss Josie.



Toddler

Children learn best and retain the most information when they engage their senses. By giving children the opportunity to investigate materials with no preconceived knowledge, you're helping them develop and refine their cognitive, social and emotional, physical, creative and linguistic skillsets. Teachers encourage small motor and perceptual motor learning by knowing individual children and trying to provide the right range of material choices and the right number of choices for each child.



Preschool

Playing with manipulatives involves children building on fitting things together. This play is important as it helps children develop their fine motor skills and eye hand co-ordination. Children are also practicing *Emotional*, *Cognitive*, and *Physical* skills. In doing so, children become more confident and competent in using all the different tools and equipment they use in life. Our preschoolers are exposed to many types of manipulative toys. In the picture, you can spot Rohan and Samantha working on puzzles.



Kindergarten Prep

Oral motor input is important for the development of speech sounds and the ability to chew and swallow food successfully. Sucking, blowing, and chewing can help our children to calm down, focus and attend, and become more organized. This is because they get very strong sensory input) through using the strong muscles of their mouths when they do so. Proper speech and feeding requires strong lips, cheeks, jaws, and tongues and requires oral muscles that can move the right way. In Kindergarten Prep, Charlotte exercises her oral-motor skills by using a straw create bubbles in a cup of soapy water.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Where in the World? Geography in the Early Childhood Classroom

In the July, 2015 issue of *Young Children*, Pamela Brillante and Sue Mankiw discuss the value of fostering a sense of place in young children, of helping them develop deep roots and a sense of belonging to their community and environment. This sense of place gives children the tools they need to later “protect natural and cultural resources, reduce violent conflicts, and improve the quality of life worldwide.”

In short, the purposes of studying geography in early childhood are:

- To help children understand and appreciate their local community.
- To foster a sense of wonder and curiosity.
- To increase children’s knowledge of the world as a vast space with varied peoples and cultures.

When we think of geography, we tend to think of maps and globes or geographic regions. For young children, though, geography should include a study of both physical geography – maps, regions, land features, and climates – and human geography – the study of how humans interact with each other and the world.

Viewed through this lens, geography isn’t a subject taught in isolation. Geography happens every day as you read, cook, sing, learn, and explore with your child. Below are a few ideas for studying geography with your young child:

- Work to create a “sense of place” in your home. Display photos, artwork, and mementos that reflect your family’s interests and values. What defines your family culture? Perhaps it’s the library of books that speaks to your love of learning or the game cupboard or sports equipment that reflects your family’s hobbies.
- Explore both the natural and human geography near your home. Walk through leaves in the fall, visit a nearby pond, or turn over rocks to find bugs. These simple activities create a sense of deep security for children and encourage a lifelong love of nature. Get to know the people who live and work in your community. When you visit a nearby bakery, hardware store, coffee shop, or post office, talk with the people who are helping you. These relationships help ground people within their community.
- Display maps and globes in your home. Point out places that you’ve visited or lived. Share photos and mementos from those places. Create books that depict stories of your trips or special events.

The study of geography, like most learning, enriches our understanding of ourselves and our world. In [“Pedagogy of Ecology,”](#) Ann Pelo described her return to her childhood home: “I remembered with a child’s open-hearted joy how it feels to give yourself over to a place, to be swept into an intimate embrace with the earth. I understood that place shapes our identity.” Children lucky enough to experience this deep connection become securely-grounded adults who can extend that deep respect for place to all cultures and regions of the earth.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



It's Open House Month!

Throughout April, Bright Horizons' around the country will be holding Open House Weeks for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Check in with your center director for exact dates and times.



Earth Day is April 22nd!

We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. Small changes can lead to a big impact!

Interested in learning about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

Each year we take the month of May to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families.

May is almost here! Make sure to mark your calendars. ☺

CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

