

# Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool News

## From the Director

Dear Families,

As we welcome in spring we have many wonderful activities planned to share with you starting with our "Showcase." This family event will give you the opportunity to learn more about our Curriculum in the Preschool and Kindergarten Prep programs.

"Earth Day," we will celebrate our world by planting seeds and gardening, learning about recycling and taking care of the earth.

"Kindergarten Prep Science Fair," stop by the playground and enjoy watching our VPK children turn into little scientist while performing different experiments.

"The week of the Young Child," we will celebrate this week with different fun activities for the children, like Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. You are welcome to participate. Please look at the calendar for dates and times.

Thank you for all your support!

*"Research tells us that people who have positive self-identities and who feel they have value in the world are more successful in life. This process starts early in childhood, when preschoolers are actively developing their sense of self and who they are in the world"*

...Towards a Better World

Ms. Mariella & Ms. Vicky

## Important Dates

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| April 13    | Showcase/Open House<br>6:00 to 7:00 pm                 |
| April 17-21 | Earth Day – Planting week                              |
| April 21    | Enrichment Program 10:00am                             |
| April 21    | Kindergarten Prep Science Fair<br>11:30 am to 12:30 pm |
| April 24-28 | Week of the Young Child<br>More information to come.   |



## Reasons to Celebrate Happy Birthday!

- |      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 4/1  | Thaddeus Q. |
| 4/2  | Ms. Guiucel |
| 4/6  | Andrew R.   |
| 4/14 | Enzo S.     |



## Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury

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Monday – Friday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Infant A

During sensory play the infants explored the smooth texture and cool temperature of yogurt. They were fascinated as they lay on the floor and used their upper body to move the yogurt around the paper.

## Infant B

While learning about opposites the children in the Infant B class used a parachute and flashlight as they talked about light and dark. The children took turns turning the flashlight on and off with Ms. Enia.

## Toddler

Throughout March, the toddler class spent time learning about the color green. They did matching, sorting and counting activities in the Math Counts area. In the dramatic play area the children dressed in green, cooked green foods, and pretended to shop for green items.

## Two's

With the arrival of spring, the two-year old classrooms have been working on a group project to grow their own caterpillars. They watched them become Chrysalides. The children are looking forward to watching the birth of the butterflies.

## Preschool 3

During Science Rocks Preschool 3 were learning about density. Using different liquids the children made layers in a clear jar. They were able to see the liquids that had more density stayed closer to the base of the jar. They also tasted some of the liquids to see which were denser like honey or water.

## Kindergarten Prep

The children had a wonderful time with their families celebrating Dr. Seuss Birthday with a parade around the campus. They also had the opportunity to enriched their learning by reading and enjoying his books building vocabulary and developing the ability to communicate in increasingly complex ways.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Language Development in the Early Years

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The first three years of life are marked by tremendous growth. A child's early language development, which includes not just speech, but nonverbal communication such as eye contact and gestures, is an almost miraculous accomplishment. Although each child is unique, language acquisition generally unfolds in a predictable sequence, as outlined below.

### Average Language Milestones

According to the Mayo Clinic, most babies will smile when a parent appears, make cooing sounds, and respond to a voice by the end of **3 months** of age. At **6 months**, most infants make gurgling and babbling sounds, make eye contact in response to sounds, and respond to noises, such as music or toys.

By **12 months**, babies often try to imitate speech sounds and may say a few words, such as "dada," "mama," or "ball." One-year-olds can understand and respond to simple instructions and look in the direction of sounds. Between **12 and 18 months**, children begin to recognize the names for familiar people, animals, and objects. They may follow simple gestures or say between eight and 10 words. By the end of **24 months**, toddlers often say simple phrases, such as, "More milk." They can respond to simple requests and might say as many as 50 words.

### Tips for Home

Every child acquires language at different rates, but the richer a child's "language environment" is, the more rapidly he or she will likely build language skills. Below are a few simple tips to create such an environment at home:

**Respond to your child's questions.** When your child points to an object, say the word while pointing at it too, e.g., "Squirrel, that's a squirrel." Be sure to ask open-ended questions to prompt communication, e.g., "Where do you think the squirrel is going?"

**Use gestures or signs that your child can repeat.** For example, tap your lips when you give your child a snack. He can use this gesture to let you know he's hungry. Gestures and sign language not only reduces a nonverbal child's frustration, but it can actually increase language acquisition. Talk with your young child about your daily life. "Let's get a snack and then we'll go for a walk."

**Increase the length of your child's sentences.** For example, your child points at the dog and says, "Dog out." You smile and nod, saying, "You're right. The dog wants to go outside."

**Read, read, and read some more.** One of the best ways to help children understand the patterns of language is through reading together. Read lovely picture books and lyrical poetry and rhymes.

Check with your pediatrician if your child seems to be acquiring language slowly, but try not to worry too much. As long as your child is attempting to communicate with you, whether through words, gestures, or eye contact, she is probably developing at the speed that's just right for her. Many children can understand much of what you say (receptive language) long before they can verbally respond.

# BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

## April is 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 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Earth Day is an important day set aside to inspire appreciation for and awareness of the earth's environment. As Earth Day approaches, your child may be involved in projects and activities that foster an awareness of and appreciation for the earth's resources. To extend the learning that takes place in your child's center or school and make caring for the earth part of your family culture, we encourage you to make time for some green activities this Earth Day.

- Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible instead of driving.
- Turn off lights, TVs, and other electronic equipment, when not in use.
- Turn off the water faucet after washing hands or while brushing teeth.
- Take a nature walk: Bring a magnifying glass, an insect and plant manual, and a sketch book. See how many plants, flowers, and bugs you can identify and draw.
- Recycle cardboard, paper, and plastics.
- Draw, paint, and write on recycled paper (and use recycled computer paper for your printer).

## CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

