

# Staples Child Care Center

## October 2016



### News from Executive Director, Jen Morse

FALL IS officially HERE! And, with that being said-we will be spending as much time outdoors as we can before the next (ahem, colder) season heads our way. Let's not talk about that just yet!

A BIG welcome back to our Toddler Education Coordinator Amanda Russell who will be returning from FMLA on Friday 9/30. Her son Lincoln will be joining the Infant 4 classroom and we look forward to loving him up! We are lucky to have them both here ☺ Thank you to our lead toddler teacher, Heather, who has been such a big support for the Toddler program in Amanda's absence.

### Staffing Updates

\*We are **THRILLED** to have welcomed the following educators to our team over the last month...

**Jen Gilbert**-Kindergarten Teacher  
**Jessalyn "Jessie" Villafane**-Kindergarten Prep 4 teacher  
**Emily Roccanti**-Toddler 4 Teacher  
**Mikayla Logan**-Center Support Teacher  
**Kelsey Luttrell**-Center Support Teacher

#### And soon to join...

**Dawn Donahue**-Kindergarten Prep/Kindergarten Education Coordinator  
**Jessica "Jessie" Salvin**-Preschool Teacher

**We are so excited to see have our teaching family grow!**

### Friendly Reminders

\*Bright Horizons is a **NUT free facility**. Please help us to keep all children safe by adhering to this policy when packing your own child's lunch and snacks. Thank you!

\*Tuition is due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

\*Please be sure to sign your child in/out each day at the kiosk. This is so helpful!

#### Connect with Bright Horizons



### Important Dates ahead...

**Thank you all again for helping us celebrate our recent events such as the "Sensorypalooza" and our Curriculum Night!**

**We are always grateful for opportunities to partner with our families**

**Here are a few additional exciting events we have planned in the month ahead! Join us in celebrating them!**

**October 10-Closed for Columbus Day**  
**\*Staff Development Day**

#### **October 27-Read for the Record Event**

Sign up during the week of 10/24 on your child's classroom door if you are interested in reading to the children and helping us read for the record!

#### **October 28-Halloween Parade Event-**

Send your child's costume in with them and we will be parading around the building exterior in our costumes beginning at 3:30. We will provide small trick or treating bags for each child so that they can collect non-candy treats which will be handed out along the parade. Parents are welcome to join us too!

#### **October 31-Happy Halloween!**

Have your child wear either their costume or black and orange on this day in celebration of Halloween!

### Reasons to Celebrate!

Next week Staples Child Care Center will be celebrating 17 years since it opened its doors on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

We feel so proud to represent a company who recognized so many years ago, that there is a huge benefit to offering client sponsored childcare to the workplace.

So many other companies have followed suit and we feel lucky to partner with Staples to ensure a healthy work life balance for their employees.



# ~Classroom Highlights~



## Infants

We recently have had many of our oldest infant friends make their big move up to Toddlers and it has been so exciting to be a part of this special time in their development. We feel fortunate to have a team and families who are dedicated to making these transitions happen smoothly. The children are doing so well adjusting with support from their new teachers! These transitions are truly a team effort.

While some of our infant “graduates” took the next step in their journey, we had new infants who joined us for their very first days of school. These children are all adjusting and building bonds with their new caregivers. These bonds will strengthen over time and we look forward to seeing the strides in their development as a result of the magic that happens when meaningful interactions and a nurturing approach combine!



## Toddlers

Our Toddler program has been busy fostering their social skills as they welcomed new friends from the infant program as well a couple of new friends who are embarking on their first school experience. These are always such wonderful opportunities to model for the children the role that they play in welcoming new friends and helping one another to comfortably be accepted into the classroom environment. While we never like to see a child sad during those first few days of adjusting during a transition, we always make an effort to use these as teachable moments for the other children in the group. They are able to learn empathy and experience nurturing while they observe their caregivers caring for and comforting the child who may be a bit sad. In turn, they also build trust with their teachers.



## Preschool

Our Preschool classroom has welcomed many new friends from Toddlers this month! This age group always amazes me with their natural ability and inclination to welcome new classmates with open arms and minds! Despite their versatile personalities, the children are always able to connect and foster team building skills through some of the activities that they seem to mutually enjoy such as building masterpieces with blocks, free choice in the art center, etc. It is so rewarding to watch the children build relationships through activities that they enjoy. This teaches them how to relate to one another in different ways which is a skill that they will carry with them through adulthood.



## Kindergarten Prep/Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten prep and Kindergarten friends have spent the last few weeks familiarizing with their new groups of friends and getting to know their new primary teachers. I am amazed each time I step foot into these classrooms. The process of learning is always so evident in these environments and it is so much fun watching the children rise to the challenge of new curriculum and learning techniques. At every stage of development, each child is supported based on their independent learning style. They are given the freedom to explore their environment and various aspects of the curriculum in a way that inspires





## Technology Tactics

Scientist Alan Kay said, “Technology is anything that wasn’t around when you were born.” This tongue-in-cheek observation speaks to the ambivalence we sometimes feel about technology. On the one hand, we can see its potential benefits; on the other, we may feel intimidated by it or worry about its negative effects. Often, we tend to lean to one side or the other.

Managing technology at home can seem overwhelming and every family’s solution will probably be unique to their situation. Below are a few general ideas to support you in finding the approach that works best for your family.

**Find a balance.** Children have access to more entertainment options than ever before, yet their needs haven’t changed. Children need unstructured play every day. They need real, face-to-face conversations and time to think, dream, and read. Their growing bodies and minds need daily doses of exercise and experiences with nature. As a family, set limits for tech use to ensure a healthy balance between screen time and other activities.

**Carve out tech-free spaces.** Technology can be an insidious time waster. Pop in to check social media and the next thing you know, 30 minutes has gone by. Don’t let this time gobbler eat up family moments. Set aside certain times and places as no-tech zones, e.g., when children first walk in after school, at the dinner table, or at bedtime. Don’t allow screens in children’s bedrooms. Some families have found that children fall asleep more easily if they don’t consume technology in the evenings.

**Keep your eyes open.** Be involved with your child’s virtual experiences just as you would his real-life activities. Check in occasionally on your child’s social media pages; get to know her online friends. Install a filter to help keep out inappropriate material, but understand that no filter is fool-proof. Scrutinize apps and software carefully. Talk with your child about what to do if he or she encounters inappropriate material and keep communication open.

**Join the party.** In general, we try to take a positive approach to parenting, saying “yes” when we can and filling our homes with the good things, rather than focusing on the negative. Technology is no exception. Choose wholesome, high-quality technology, including games, apps, audiobooks, and videos. Then plan some special family time to participate in those activities together. You’ll get a bird’s eye view of how your child is responding to technology and your child will love your willingness to enter his world.