

Bright Horizons at Boxborough

20 Codman Hill Road
Boxborough, Ma., 01719
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March 2012



Transition Tamers

Children of all ages deal with several transitions each day and these can be among the most trying times of day: from bed to breakfast, from home to child care, and from dinner to bedtime. Here are some tips for taming transition blues: Sing a song, do a countdown, make up a game or contest. "Let's see if we can clean up these toys before this song is over," "Who can get their shoes on first?" or "How many hops do we need to get into the bedroom?" These simple systems can be helpful in dispelling the stress of the transition for both the children and you, and getting you successfully from one step to the next.

From the Director:

Thanks so much to all of you that took a few minutes to fill out an Award of Excellence for our well deserving teachers. Your compliments mean so much to us and we truly appreciate it.

We will continue our winter Soup and Cracker drive for needy families until next Friday, March 9. Your donations will be so helpful to many families and children.

Teachers are currently working on a fun and adventurous summer "camp" during July and August. Please, if you have any special hidden talents you would like to share, or would just be willing to read us a book or sing us a song, let us know. We would welcome you!

Thanks to all of you for your concern during my upcoming surgery. I will stay in touch while I am out. Please, please see Heather or Amy or our RM Jessica if you have any concerns or questions. I will miss you all....
Warm Regards,
Julie

Important Dates to Note~

Thursday, March 1st—Lunch and Learn 12:30-1:15. Topic is Nutrition and Young Children.

Friday, March 2nd—Dr. Seuss's Birthday

Tuesday, March 6th—Mr. Ron

Tuesday, March 13th—Julie out on leave for 6 weeks.

Thursday, March 15th—Infant family event "Juice and Muffin on the Go".

Tuesday, March 20th—First day of Spring!

Jessica King, our Regional Manager, is scheduled to be here on March 15th, 21st, and 30th.

Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to Carol, Infant teacher on 3/1 and Briana, Toddler teacher on 3/23.

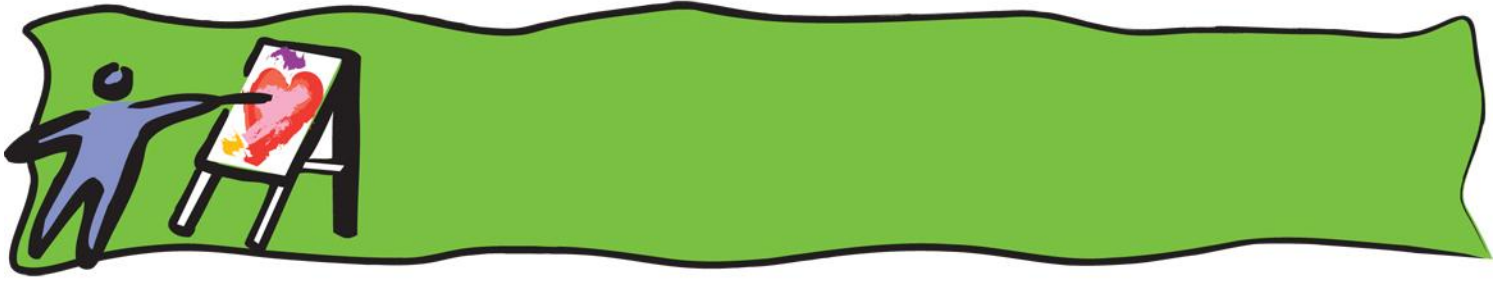
Happy 5th anniversary with Bright Horizons to Sue S.

Special March children's birthdays:

Daniel in PS1 will be 3 on March 4

Doru in PS1 will be 3 on March 6

Paige in PS2 will be 4 on March 17



Infants~

The Infant team is very excited to have Lisa Sheriff from the Toddler Two classroom join our team for a few months. Lisa has already bonded with the children and they enjoy her warmth and enthusiasm. Lisa's expertise with toddlers will help us guide Austin, Mohin, Cole and CJ as they begin the transition process.

In February we made several kinds of dough: sticky, gritty, dry, fragrant, squishy and smooth. After reading *The Little Red Hen* we used heavy cream to make unsalted butter and made bread in a bag. We retold *The Little Red Hen* story by using flannel board pieces. The boys liked holding on to the different characters from the book.



Sarah and Lisa will be taking on a transportation theme during the month of March. Sarah will take on the first two weeks with cars, motorcycles, bikes, trains, scooters and all the things that use water to move. Lisa will finish up the month with trucks from our community helper friends and all the big construction vehicles and diggers. Lastly we will take to the skies. Maybe we will get the chance to fly a kite. If you have any special books or songs that you would like to share please let Lisa and Sarah know.

There has been some confusion on how to label the children's bottles. If you have any questions please see Julie, Heather or any of the infant teachers.



We will be trying to get out as often as the children's schedules allow. Please send in shoes and extra clothes for the mobile children. March is often very muddy and after the children crawl and explore their outside world, they may need an extra change of clothes.

We will be hosting a juice and muffin to go on Thursday, March 15th. Take a snack with you to work or stay for a few minutes before heading off for the day.



Please remember you are always welcome to visit the center at any time. The infant team can schedule a time to meet with you if you have any questions, concerns or would like to talk about your child informally.



Only twenty more days until spring!
Sarah, Lisa, Andrea and Carol

Toddler One and Two~

We were very busy in February searching the room and the playground for different shapes. The children had lots of fun with this activity and even started telling us the shape of their snacks such as circle bagel and triangle sandwich. We also had fun painting with different shapes as well as reading books and learning some new shape songs.



We've observed many of the children pushing the trucks around, having races around the room with them and showing lots of interest in the different vehicles we see throughout the day so we decided to talk about transportation this month.



We will read many transportation books such as Truck Jam by Paul Stickland and Bear on a Bike by Stella Blackstone. We will also talk about different vehicles we have been in and sing "Wheels on the Bus", "The Firetruck Song" as well as learn some new songs. (Language Works)

On the playground, we will have races on the bikes and take a walk, using our legs for transportation. We are also excited to line up the chairs for our "bus ride". (Movement Matters)



We have lots of fun art activities planned as well. We will dip the wheels of our small cars in paint and then "drive" them all over our papers, paint and decorate large boxes to make a train and we will paint wooden airplanes to take outside and fly. Then we will talk about how they flew and measure how far they went. (Science Rocks).

We can't wait to get started. We look forward to a busy and fun filled month! As always please come to us with any questions or concerns that you might have. We love working with your wonderful children.

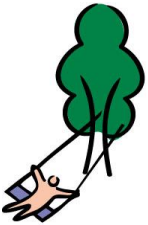
Your Toddler Team
Amy, Sue, Briana and Janet

Preschool One~



In February we enjoyed reading a lot of Eric Carle books and doing art projects related to the books. We also had a great time at our Valentine's Day party! We also started a unit on Feelings, which will be carried over into March.

At the beginning of March, Jess will be back and we will welcome transitioning toddlers Thalia, Elina, Mikayal and Pete to our classroom! Also in March we will do a unit on dinosaurs. We have many dinosaur-themed activities planned, such as a salt dough fossil, dinosaur egg and measuring out how big some of them were and comparing them to our size. After dinosaurs we will have a unit on transportation.



Weather is very changeable in March so please dress children in layers. Also, please check to make sure your child has at least one complete change of clothes in their cubbie in case of spills, accidents, etc.

Tuesday is Pizza Day - \$3.00 for pizza, veggie or fruit.

As always, if you have a question or concern, please see Jess or Sue S.

Thank you,
Jess and Sue S.

Preschool Two~

February was a busy month! In the beginning of the month, we talked about winter animals, friends and, of course, Valentine's Day. The last full week was all about pizza, and we have just begun "All About Me" books to finish the month. We made lots of different animals, decorated holders for our Valentines, made paper plate pizzas and modeled with real pizza dough. (Art Smart)



For Science Rocks, we made feeders for the winter birds, talked about real hearts inside our bodies and inflated a balloon using yeast (by far our favorite). Counting the days on the calendar and waiting for events and new months is really interesting to the children at the moment. Also, they like to measure when we cook.



Delivering Valentines to each friend (practicing one-to-one correspondence) was a big hit, too. (Math Counts) Preschool 2 is always ready for Story Time, and they are learning lots of long songs. Our current favorites are "Mail Myself to You", "The Lollipop Song", and "Mama's Soup Surprise".



We signed our Valentines cards and worked together on a recipe for pizza, too. (Language Works) We've been lucky to be able to be outside to perfect our gross motor skills, but we like the balance beam and "Listen and Follow Directions" CDs that we use for Movement Matters, too.

As we move into March, we will finish our "All About Me" books, and then move on to vehicles. (We've been so busy building roads, train tracks and airports!) We'll divide the topic into air, land and water. With spring on the way, we will probably add in "signs of spring", as well. If your child has any topic-related books that you would like to share, we would love to read them.



Reminder ~ The playground can be muddy at this time of year, but oh, so much fun. If you want your child to wear boots, just let us know. Also, a complete change of clothes available in their cubbies would be great.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and let's all hope for an early spring!

Joanne and Nancy

Preschool Three~

The month of February has come to an end but, we are looking forward to March and the weather that will follow! Everyone had a great time on Valentine's Day and we hope to make St. Patrick's Day just as exciting.



Dates to remember:

- March 2nd: Dr. Seuss Birthday
- March 20th: 1st day of spring- Spring is finally coming! We will talk about what spring means and decorate the classroom with beautiful spring art work.

Themes:

Dinosaurs: We have always had dinosaurs in our science area and dinosaur in books but this year dinosaurs have come up almost every week because everyone loves to talk about dinosaurs. So for a week in March we will be learning and discussing everything we know about dinosaurs!

Spring: Spring will be here before we know it and it will come "in like a lion and out like a lamb." And everyone will have a chance to learn all about the changes in spring! It is always an exciting time of the year because the weather gets even better and we get longer days to enjoy. We have had our countdown going so everyone is very excited for spring to come and see all the changes that will happen!



Sharing topics:

- Tuesday March 6th, 2012- Free Choice
- Tuesday March 13th, 2012- Something to do with dinosaurs
- Tuesday March 20th, 2012- something that has to do with spring
- Tuesday March 27th, 2012- something colorful

Reminders:

- Tuesday is sharing day!
- Please check and empty parent mailboxes daily.
- Please bring home extra clothes to wash.
- Please pack silverware in children's lunches and talk about using the containers that are sent in to reduce Preschool 3's amount of waste. Let's go **GREEN!**

Have a Wonderful Month!

Ammie



Welcome to GardenWorks

GardenWorks is the newest component of *The World at Their Fingertips!* *GardenWorks* draws from both *Science Rocks* and *Well Aware* and offers lots of practical ideas for getting started on gardening with children. Periodic articles in this newsletter will be offered to give you ideas for gardening with your child(ren) at home. Why would we garden for children? Gardening is a rich source of hands-on experiential learning. Science learning opportunities abound within gardening projects. Children learn about the cycle of life, what it takes to nurture a plant and so much more. Similarly, health and wellness learning opportunities are offered as children sample new vegetables they have never tried before and learn how healthy foods nourish the body. *GardenWorks* also touches on many of the concepts which are part of *Toward a Better World* which includes a focus on making the world a more sustainable place.

Some of the potential for learning through gardening includes developing concepts related to botany, teamwork, and health and wellness. More specifically, children can learn:

- Where food comes from – many children think food comes from grocery stores. Experience with gardening helps expand their ideas.
- How plants grow – what could be more fascinating than seeing the first shoots of a plant pop through the soil!
- Parts of a plant – new words like “stem”, “seed” and “flower” can add to a child’s growing vocabulary.
- Why some vegetables grow under the ground and others grow on top – while it is fun to watch a tomato or pepper get bigger, even better is digging up potatoes growing under the ground.
- Life cycle of a plant – exposure to the cycle of life of a plant leads to discussions of bigger questions around life and death for all living things.
- To use tools – using tools like a trowel helps the refinement of eye-hand coordination needed to write and draw.
- To make a plan and execute it – the skills needed to plan and implement a garden are practical skills which will be needed throughout everyone’s life.
- To work together to reach a goal – gardening requires team work. Everyone has a job and everyone needs to do their job to have a successful harvest.
- To make hypotheses and see what happens – predicting the yield from your garden is a math skill which will be used over and over again.
- To care for the environment and sustainability of the planet – tending a garden helps children understand how precious our natural resources are.
- To eat in a healthy way – when you have taken all this time to grow vegetables, you certainly want to try them!

Watch future issues of this newsletter for more *GardenWorks* article and ideas.



Bright Horizons News

Mom to Mom Blog Gets a New Look!



The Bright Horizons Mom to Mom blog has a new look and feel. You can now find blogs by topic more easily and learn about some of the new mom bloggers. Check it out at www.momblog.brighthouse.com. Visit the blog to find ideas and resources on parenting, and tips for balancing your professional and personal life.

Bright Horizons is Named to FORTUNE Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" for the 13th Time



Bright Horizons is proud to announce that we have been listed on the "100 Best Companies to Work For" list for the 13th time. This recognition belongs to all our employees who have dedicated their careers to caring for children and families and helping to make it easier for working families to balance their work life. Two-thirds of the FORTUNE award comes directly from what Bright Horizons employees have to say about their work and workplace. On the heels of our 25th anniversary as an organization, we are more grateful than ever for the strong culture that our employees have created together over the years. Their dedication to our mission is inspiring and humbling and without them, we would not be able to achieve our longstanding mission of supporting working families and employers. Congratulations go to them for this recognition

Coming in April...Employee Appreciation Month

The greatest reward a teacher receives is to know that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. In April, Bright Horizons® dedicates time to celebrate and recognize all of the employees who make this such a wonderful place for children and families.

As part of this month long celebration, keep your eyes out for an invite to visit our **Recognition Website**. Here you can leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher. For additional ways to recognize your child's teachers, please speak with your center director.