

Bright Horizons at Mount Prospect News

November 2015



From the Director

Dear Bright Horizons at Mount Prospect Families,

Bright Horizons has made a change in our tuition payment method effective December 1, 2015. As of December 1, 2015, tuition payments are accepted exclusively through the *Online Payment Solution*, which is available through the [Family Information Center](#). We will no longer accept checks for payment.

Many families have already signed up for and are benefitting from this option for their child care payments. Once your family's Primary payer has accessed the Family Information Center and set up a funding account, funds can be withdrawn automatically, or initiated by you as you choose. Imagine not having to remember to write and drop off a check anymore! In addition, if you sign up to have the funds transfer automatically, tuition payments will be made on time, every time helping families to avoid late fees.

To sign up for the *Online Payment Solution*, your family's Primary Payer must first log into the [Family Information Center](#) using the email address you provided to Bright Horizons when you enrolled at the center. Select the Payments button in the "My Balance" box on the right of your homepage. You will then be prompted to complete the Online Payment sign up process.

Please note, at this time, only the parent/guardian who is currently associated with the Bright Horizons account may sign up for online payments. For help with access to the Family Information Center, contact your dedicated Help Desk by calling 1-855-239-3850 or emailing familyinforcenter@brighthouse.com.

Important Dates

Bright Horizons Foundation for Children FUNdraiser (see pg. 5 for details)

November 5- Parent Partnership Group Conference Call- join us from 12:30-1:00 PM to find out how you can help in the center. To join the call the number is 888-886-4283 pin number 7083955866.

November 8- Miss Heather's Bright Horizons Anniversary

November 10 and 11- Picture Day at the Center.

November 12- Miss Lindsey's birthday

November 15- Miss Veronica's Bright Horizons Anniversary

November 18- Miss Kandra's birthday

November 19- Thankful Luncheon- come and have lunch with your child from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

November 20- Miss Erin's Bright Horizons Anniversary

November 26- Center closed

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Classroom Highlights



Infants This month our Infants will be singing and talking about Fall. During their Math Counts activities the children will be stacking and building with Duplo blocks. For Science Rocks explorations the Infants will be exploring pumpkins and other Fall items.



Toddlers The Toddlers will be using their sign language for “more”, “please”, “thank you”, and “sorry” along with using those words to communicate with one another. During their Math Counts activities the children will be counting and using one to one correspondence. Science Rocks activities will have the Toddlers exploring planting and starting an indoor garden.



Young Preschool The Young Preschoolers this month will be talking about and reading their favorite stories. Math Counts activities will have the children working on their one to one correspondence and counting. Science Rocks explorations will have the Young Preschoolers observing and testing what floats, sinks, and mixing different solutions.



Classroom Highlights



Preschool The Preschoolers will continue to work with Handwriting Without Tears tools to write their letters A through J. Everyday Math activities will have the children explore counting 1 to 5 and quantities of groups. In the Science Rocks Lab the Preschoolers will be exploring colors.

Kindergarten Prep This month the Kindergarten Prep children will be learning to read and identify sight words as they read their WiggleWorks books. Everyday Math activities will have the children exploring estimation. In the Science Rocks Lab the Kindergarten Prep children will be exploring their 5 senses.



Kindergarten The Kindergarteners will be working on comprehension as they retell stories and learn about the plot of stories. Everyday Math activities will have the children counting up and down from higher numbers. In the Science Rocks Lab the Kindergarteners will be learning about crystals after they finish their exploration of bats and leaves.

School Readiness Myths

It is not unusual to hear school readiness “myths” in the broader culture. These typically are not based on sound educational theory. Here are a few common school readiness myths and the accompanying correct information:

- **Myth #1:** Learning the ABCs/alphabet is crucial to school readiness. **The Truth:** Learning the ABCs/alphabet is a memorization skill. While it is important, and will help children understand the idea of alphabetical order in the future, learning to recognize and name letters and identify their sounds is even more important.
- **Myth #2:** Children need to know how to count to 50 before going to first grade/primary school. **The Truth:** Similar to learning the ABCs/alphabet, counting to 10, 50, or 100 is a rote memorization skill. Again, while it helps children understand that there is an order to numbers, far more important is understanding the idea of 1-to-1 correspondence (that each number you count has a corresponding object, person, year, etc. to go with it) and understanding quantity (i.e., that “three” means “three objects”).
- **Myth #3:** The more “teacher-directed” the learning, the better. In other words, if a teacher is directly telling children something, that will increase their learning. **The Truth:** Actually, we know that children internalize concepts more fully when they are doing things – when they are digging, building, balancing, jumping, writing, counting, etc. vs. being told by someone else.
- **Myth #4:** The more a program looks like the “school” we remember as children (desks, teacher up in front of the classroom, etc.), the more the children will learn. **The Truth:** Young children learn best in an environment that allows them to make choices (builds decision-making skills and independence); to select their own learning materials for at least part of the day (children are inherently motivated to learn); and empowers them to try new things with a teacher who guides the learning (children learn through active engagement with the people and materials in their environment).
- **Myth #5:** Children need quiet to learn. **The Truth:** Actually, children need a language-rich environment where caring adults provide responsive language interactions (your child makes a sound; you respond); where children’s language is expanded (your child points to a cat and says “cat”; you say – “Yes, that striped cat is getting ready to climb the tree”); and where new vocabulary is regularly introduced.
- **Myth #6:** Learning to write is all about letter formation. **The Truth:** While letter formation is one part of learning to write, equally, or even more important, is understanding the idea of recording one’s ideas on paper. When a child makes some scribbles and says “This is my daddy,” write your child’s words on the picture and she will begin to make the connection between the spoken and written word. Regularly record what your child says. Longer dictated stories can become illustrated “books” which can be laminated to read again and again.

Learning some “school skills” like lining up and raising hands before transitioning to school will certainly make the transition to formal schooling easier. However, what is most important is giving children the chance to fully explore and experiment in an environment with caring adults who guide, support, and extend their learning.

Bright Horizons News



Family Matters Webinar Series Recap: *Parent/Teacher Partnerships: The Keys to Successful Relationships*

Miss the September Family Matters webinar on Parent-Teacher Partnerships? We featured Bright Horizons education experts Melanie Brooks and Ruth Fidino, who shared ideas for how you can partner with your child's child care and elementary school teachers. Together, Melanie, Ruth, and the webinar audience tackled key issues like mutual respect, trust, and open communication between teachers and parents.

Visit our [Family Resources](#) page to [watch the webinar on demand](#) and access the [webinar resource pack](#).

<For centers who are participating in the Foundation's FUNdraiser. Please remove if this does not apply to your center.>

Join Us to Change the Life of a Child

This November, many centers are raising money for the *Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®* in a special "FUNdraiser" in support of *Bright Spaces®*. We invite you to join us and help change the life of a child in crises. So, when you buy a cookie at a bake sale, or bid on a piece of art at an auction, or participate in a walk-a-thon, YOU are the power of change for children who are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or other trauma.

Bright Horizons families have a long history of supporting Bright Spaces through donations to the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children. You have been part of making real and meaningful changes in the lives of thousands of children through our Bright Spaces. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.



This superhero family recently participated in a Superhero Walk at the Bright Horizons at the Ranch Reserve in Colorado.

Bright Spaces are warm, safe, enriching places in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and other agencies for children and youth experiencing homelessness or other crises to: build caring relationships, heal from trauma through play, and experience the joy of childhood. They are created and supported through partnerships with community agencies, financial sponsors, a Bright Horizons center, school or department, and the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children.

www.brighthorizonsfoundation.org