

Bright Horizons at Long Ridge

May 2015



We celebrated "Week of the Young Child" with special activities and games. *Musical Monday*, the children made cardboard maracas, *Taco Tuesday* they cooked cheese tortillas, *Build Together Wednesday*, we built with giant wooden blocks outside, and *Artsy Thursday* was a fun day with arts and crafts. We ended the week with *Family Friday* by having a pajama party and reading our favorite story "Llama, Llama Red Pajama!"



Important Dates

May 2015: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

(see page 4 for more information)

Garden Party and Silent Art Auction!

Thursday, May 29 5:30 PM-7 PM

(Fundraising event to benefit Bright Horizons Foundation for Children)

Picture Day is coming!

June 4 - Nursery 1, 2 & 3

June 5-Toddlers and Preschoolers

The center is closed Monday, May 25th Memorial Day!

Reminder:

Summer registration is due May 20

Happy Birthday!

Toddlers

Caroline L.- 14

Anvay K. -16

Ronav M.-22

Taylor C.-28

Ethan Ma-30

Preschoolers

Kaeleigh D.-18

Akshay R.- 25

Emily Ma-26

Teachers

Ms. Gillian- 7

Happy 17year
Anniversary
Ms. Natasha!

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Classroom Highlights



Our babies worked on developing an awareness of their body parts. We encouraged the children to look in the mirror and to point to their noses, eyes, and ears. The children were engaged in the "Where is Thumbkin?" and "This Little Pig Went to Market" games; they asked for more when the songs were finished. We also practiced simple physical skills such as rolling a ball, grasping a toy, or stacking blocks.



Our toddlers learned to understand cause and effect and how repeated actions make things happen. They used shovels and rakes as tools to turn over the soil in our garden. By working together on our spring collage, the children experimented with and explored materials with varied textures, colors, sizes and patterns. The children were asked to repeat the words "soft", "smooth", "hard", "bumpy". We also learned to discriminate sizes: big vs. small, long vs. short.



The preschoolers explored *things that go*. They experimented with paint and cars on a large piece of paper. The children dipped cars into paint and moved them in different directions creating colorful tracks. They also learned to apply the concept of magnetic force by exploring magnetized train and tracks in the block area. By 'going' to the "Car Wash", the children worked on developing their social-emotional skills such as sharing stories about real-life scenarios, taking turns, and helping one another.



The KPrep children celebrated Earth Day by learning about the relationship between living and non-living things and our own impact on the environment. They looked for bugs outside using magnifying glasses and recorded their observations in the journals. The children also learned about the properties of the environment by experimenting with soil and creating our own "mini greenhouse." In the next couple weeks, we will continue discovering spring happenings through outdoor observations and non-fiction books

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Partnering with Teachers in Potty Training

Your child seems old enough to begin potty training, but you wonder how potty training works in child care. Relax. Like every other aspect of child care, you and your child's teacher will work as partners in the process of potty training. Potty training while in child care is usually very successful. At school, your child sees other children visiting the bathroom, which can create a powerful incentive and example. Teachers are usually very experienced in potty training and can offer you a lot of support. Soon, your days of changing diapers will be over and your child will seem oh, so grown up.

Below are a few more tips for potty training at child care:

- **Get on the same page.** Talk with your child's teachers about the approach they use. They can help you watch for signs of readiness. These signs may include staying dry for lengths of time, expressing an interest in using the toilet, and being able to pull clothes up and down. You and your child's teachers will work together to develop a plan for potty training. Mutually agree on how you'll handle potty training and make sure that you consistently follow the plan during the evenings and weekends.
- **Come prepared.** Accidents are bound to happen during the first few weeks of potty training. Be sure to send your child with plenty of clean clothes. Skip the onesies, blue jeans, or overalls, and opt for soft, loose pants with an elastic waistband. These clothes help your child be more independent, and they also simplify the inevitable changes. Send your child in shoes that come off easily and don't forget extra socks.
- **Expect setbacks.** Potty training is a major developmental milestone and it's very common for children to make progress and then regress. Try not to get discouraged or express frustration to your child. Make sure that your child is really ready before you start potty training. The age of readiness varies from child to child, but most children are ready to potty train between 20 and 30 months. Take it slow and use a relaxed, positive approach. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions or just need some extra support.

As you go through the potty training process, try to keep perspective. Some children are very motivated and learn to use the toilet quickly. Others need more time before they completely master this developmental task. Remember that both you and your child are doing the best you can. Before long, your child will be diaper-free and ready for the next adventure.

Bright Horizons News



May is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member receives is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Each year **Bright Horizons®** dedicates the month of May as a time to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make this such a wonderful place for children and families.



As part of this month long celebration, we invite you to visit our [Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website](#). Here, you can leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.

If you're looking for another way to celebrate a teacher or staff member, you may consider making a contribution to the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®](#) in their name.

Thank you for helping us recognize the important work of our teachers and staff—they make Bright Horizons a great place!

May installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!



Growing Givers: Raising Socially Responsible Children
May 2015 - Date and time TBD

Raising children to be socially aware, community oriented, charitable minded, and educated about their world is more vital than ever in today's global society.

The next webinar in the **Bright Horizons®** Family Matters Webinar Series will provide insight on how social responsibility and empathy develops as your child grows, the intersection of family, school, and community in raising children, as well as meaningful activities families can do together to make a difference in their communities and in the world.

Want to join us in May? [Sign up](#) to be notified when registration opens!