

# Bright Horizons at Long Ridge News

## From the Director

Thank you for helping make Teacher Appreciation Week so special for our teachers. Here are some fun pictures from the week.



## Important Dates

### Congratulation, Graduates!

Preschool Graduation- Monday, June 16  
@3:30pm

### Happy Father's Day to all our dads!

Friday, June 23 - Enjoy our VIP breakfast

## Reasons to Celebrate

### Happy Birthday!

Children:

Ellery K- 4<sup>th</sup>

Henry P- 9<sup>th</sup>

Jasmine E- 10<sup>th</sup>

Boden S- 10<sup>th</sup>

Jack S- 13<sup>th</sup>

Nyla M- 16<sup>th</sup>

Ryan V- 16<sup>th</sup>

## Bright Horizons at Long Ridge

778 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06902

203-461-8653 | [lrr@brighthorizons.com](mailto:lrr@brighthorizons.com)

M-F & 7:30am-6:30pm



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Infant

Our babies are full of wondrous achievements. They are working diligently to expand their physical abilities, to discover the world around them, and to develop a sense of self. Every day they make their large and small accomplishments such as grasping a toy, stacking blocks, rolling a ball, or throwing a ball into a basketball hoop.



## Toddler

Language at toddler age is starting to blossom, with the babbles and coos of infancy now transforming into the multiple-word phrases of toddlerhood. Teachers continually model language, expand children's phrases, and engage them in rich conversations. The children enjoy interactive exploration of the book "Touch and Feel Farm" while learning some new words such as soft, smooth, and fluffy. They talk about animals that live on the farm, their colors, sounds they make, and food they eat.



## Preschool

Science is part of everything our preschoolers do each day. They are engaged in experimentation, exploring properties, making important discoveries, and learning how things work. Our teacher carefully plan science experiences that nurture curiosity, wonder, and critical thinking. What do you see happening? Why do you think this is happening? These are the questions that our children answer while exploring with water toys and vibrant purple water in the sensory bin.



## Kindergarten Prep

KPrep teachers implement STEM curriculum by focusing on the elements of science, technology, engineering, and math. Typically, activities planned with a STEM focus involve at least two of the disciplines. The children practice their cognitive, fine motor and creative skills while using jumbo popsicle sticks to drizzle clear glue on watercolor paper and add salt. Then, they explore painting on top of dried glue and salt to create a variety of interesting results.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Phonemic Awareness: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

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Phonemic awareness is the understanding that words are made of phonemes (sounds). It is also the ability to identify and manipulate those sounds. Phonemic awareness is not phonics, but is a precursor to the ability to comprehend phonics instruction in the older years. Without phonemic awareness, phonics instruction makes little sense. In fact, strong phonemic awareness is a predictor of later reading success.

Parents have always intuitively nurtured their children's phonemic awareness through nursery rhymes, songs, and word games. Below are a few ideas for taking this natural tendency even further through intentional phonemic awareness lessons. These lessons should be casual, brief, and fun. Always consider your child's readiness when introducing them.

### TODDLERS, TWOS, AND UP

- **Read together.** Share silly poetry, sing nursery rhymes, and read picture books with repetitive or rhyming verse. These activities help children understand the patterns and rhythm of language.
- **Play listening games.** Identify specific sounds, such as dogs barking, birds chirping, or a trash truck or ambulance driving by.

### PRESCHOOLERS THROUGH KINDERGARTEN

- **Continue reading** a variety of literature to children, including nursery rhymes and repetitive stories.
- **Play more advanced listening games.** Hide a noisemaker, such as a ticking tock or a bell somewhere in the room. Ask your child to listen closely to find the location of the noise. Play two sounds, such as a bell and a bird call, one after the other. Ask your child to identify the first and the last sound. Give two or three directions at a time, such as, "Roll the ball, jump once, and clap your hands."

Building phonemic awareness doesn't require worksheets or time-consuming instruction. Use these ideas when you're in the car, waiting at the doctor's office, or playing together. Keep a playful approach and stop before your child loses interest.

Many of the ideas on this page were adapted from [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com). Please visit this site for more information and ideas. Visit Reading Rockets to watch a short video demonstrating simple word games parents and teachers can play with children. (<http://www.readingrockets.org/reading-topics/phonemic-awareness>)

# ARE YOU A #PROUDPARENT?

## Share with us!



Throughout the month of June, Bright Horizons will be sharing stories of Proud Parents just like you on Facebook and Instagram.

Is your child graduating Kindergarten Prep this year? Did your baby take their first steps? Did your toddler donate his toys to others? Does your preschooler's endless imagination never cease to amaze you? What does your child do that makes you proud? Simply tag us at @BrightHorizons on Facebook or Instagram and use the hashtag #ProudParent and we'll share your glowing moments of parental pride.

*My daughter rode a bike without training wheels today! #ProudParent @BrightHorizons*



Science | Technology | Engineering | Math

**Trying to decide how and when to introduce your child to STEM subjects?**

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of our recent Family Matters Webinar, *A Parent's Guide to STEM Education*, which explored how to help your child learn STEM at every age and stage.

