

# Bright Generations Downtown News

## From the Director

Welcome to a new year and a new month full of learning and adventure! As we settle in after the busy Holiday season, we welcome back many of you from well-deserved vacations.

The Annual Bright Horizons Parent Satisfaction Survey is launching this month! The online version of the survey will be open from January 2, 2017 to January 31st, 2017. We are committed to providing the highest quality care for families, and so every opinion counts! Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at:

[www.brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey](http://www.brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey)

When you open the link above, you will select our center: **Bright Generations Downtown**, then state: **Georgia**, then city: **Atlanta** and then select the 4-digit center number (**0365**) and name from the drop-down list. If you have any trouble, please feel free to ask for help! We value your opinion and feedback!

Please check your child's cubby to make sure that the change of clothing provided is appropriate for the Winter Season. It might also be a good idea to keep a light weight jacket here at school, just in case layers are needed on the playground.

## Important Dates

01/02- New Year's Holiday- Center Closed

01/03- Drop in Day for School agers

1/10- FPG Meeting

01/16- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday-  
Center Closed

## Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday!!!

Theo Scott 01/08

Caleb Collins 01/14

Abigail Chiock 01/18

Noah Miller 01/21

Robert Shalstrom 01/30

Roddie Ingram 01/06

Shakeata Shinholster 01/08

Constancia Dunlap 01/17

Kendra Williams 01/25

## Bright Generations Downtown

300 Central Park Place, Atlanta, GA, 30312

404-506-1808 | [georgiapower.downtown@brighthorizons.com](mailto:georgiapower.downtown@brighthorizons.com)

Monday-Friday & 6:30-6:30



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Ash

---

Infants in Ash are learning numerical concepts. They are learning it by using large, colorful soft blocks to measure their height. Daisy is pictured here, balancing herself on the ballerina bar, with five blocks measuring her.



## Birch

---

Infants in Birch are learning to experiment with sounds. They are learning this by using musical instruments, rattles and other objects that make sounds. Caroline is pictured here during tummy time, tapping at the piano, making music.



## Mulberry

---

The toddlers in Mulberry are learning to match appropriate color to the color on the board. They are learning it by playing sorting and matching games. During this activity Talia was given a color and told to match it to the correct color group on the board.



## Hickory

---

Toddlers in Hickory are learning to experiment with and explore color. They learn this by expressing creativity in their own way without teacher direction. Sarah is pictured here, gluing colored tissue paper onto a paper. As she picks up each piece, the teacher says “you chose the green one.”



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Chestnut

---

This month Chestnut learned to strengthen and refine their small and large muscle skills. We got to enjoy making music with Ms. Jireh using the rhythm sticks and then we danced. We also practiced stretching on our yoga mats. Although it's cold outside, we still get to move our bodies!



## Dogwood

---

We learned to develop an awareness of our body parts and our bodily powers. We learned it by practicing simple physical skills such as making movements with a large tent. As a team we used our large motor skills to hold one side and moved our rainbow parachute up and down, around and down the sidewalk while singing, "Ring Around the Rosie" and saying the colors of the rainbow.



## Oak

---

We learned to understand quantities related to numbers. We learned it by counting stacked cube blocks. The children spun the arrow on the number board. They identified the number the arrow landed on and then stacked the corresponding number of blocks.



## Sycamore

---

The children are learning to identify numbers. They are also learning to strengthen and refine small muscle skills. They are learning this by counting. The children were able to trace numbers with chalk on the playground.



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Tupelo

---

The children are exploring how properties can change. The children created candy ornaments. The children picked an ornament shape and filled it with starlight candies. Next, the children brought it to Mr. Archie to bake. When it was done, the children poked holes in them and threaded it with a pipe cleaner.



## STEM LAB

---

In the STEM lab, the children played an addition math game using peppermint. The children are learning to solve simple number problems. They tossed the die twice and counted the numbers showing on the die. Next, they counted the sum and wrote their story problem on the SMART board. The students are learning to count and work on their fine motor skills.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Outdoor Winter Play

---

January, for many of us, it's a dreaded month, the beginning of several weeks of cold temperatures and dark days. We're naturally inclined to stay inside when the temperature outdoors dips, yet children's need for active play doesn't change. Have you ever wondered how teachers accommodate children's needs for movement during the winter months? Below, we provide some insight into outdoor play in an early childhood setting and offer some tips for home, as well.

**Cultural expectations about cold weather vary from region to region, and even around the world.** In Scandinavia, for example, children and adults bundle up and go outdoors almost every day, believing that this practice builds resilience and good health. A common Scandinavian expression says, "There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing." Knowing this can broaden our view of the possibilities for outdoor play. It's also valuable to remember that while as adults, we may feel miserable in cold weather, children often find the experience joyful and invigorating.

Teachers are encouraged to take children outdoors for at least a few minutes, several times each day, although each center has its own policies and practice. According to *Caring for Our Children the National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, "toddlers (twelve months to three years) and preschoolers (three to six years) should be allowed sixty to ninety total minutes of outdoor play. These outdoor times can be curtailed somewhat during adverse weather conditions in which children may still play safely outdoors for shorter periods, but should increase the time of indoor activity, so the total amount of exercise should remain the same." (*Caring for Our Children*, 3rd edition)

**Teachers understand the value of outdoor time, but are also prepared for indoor movement activities in inclement weather.** In cold weather, they may take children for a brisk walk or play a game outdoors. Indoors, they may, depending on the space available, offer balls, scooters, balance beams or other movement equipment. Dancing and indoor games can provide opportunities for physical activity.

**Parents can support outdoor play.** Teachers sometimes worry about taking children outdoors in cold weather. Parents can offer encouragement and work with teachers to ensure children have warm, waterproof outerwear. In some classrooms, for example, parents and teachers gather a stockpile of warm clothes to be kept at the center for any child to wear. Send in outerwear your child has outgrown to add to this stockpile. At home, parents can encourage the habit of getting outdoors. Take a brisk walk, build a snowman, or watch for changes in nature.

For more outdoor winter ideas, visit [Penn State College Extension](#).



# BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



## **The Essentials of Learning Through Play**

January 31, 2017 at 2:00 PM ET

What might look like play to an adult is actually learning to a child. During our upcoming parent webinar, *The Essentials of Learning Through Play*, we'll explore:

- Different types of play
- What children can learn from each type
- How these opportunities might differ depending on age
- Activities and games that will help your child continue to learn at home during play time.

**Register Today:** [The Essentials of Learning Through Play](#)

## **Parent Survey Coming Out This Month**

Each year, Bright Horizons full-service centers and schools distribute a Parent Satisfaction Survey. This is your opportunity to let us know if we are continuing to meet the needs of our families.

The annual survey will be available January 2-30 2017, and will be sent out via email.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Its purpose is to gauge our families' satisfaction and opinions on a variety of topics. Your responses directly benefit your center and provide us with feedback on how we can better serve you.

Please feel free to talk with your director about any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance!



## CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

