

Lawrenceville Ledger

August 2014



From the Director

The children are continuing to enjoy the summer! They love splashing in water, digging in the sandbox and searching for insects. There is always an adventure to be discovered!

We would like to remind families of two important dates this month:

On Thursday, August 21st at 4:00pm, we invite families who have a child enrolled in our 2014/2015 Kindergarten Program to attend an Orientation with our Kindergarten teacher, Debra Phelan. Debra will share information about the curriculum and answer any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!

On Friday, August 22nd, we will be hosting Parent's Night Out. This is a great opportunity for parents to go out to dinner or go shopping while your child stays at the Center to enjoy a Pizza and Pajama Party! If you would like for your child to attend, please sign up at the front desk.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay cool!

Important Dates

**August 5 – Parent Partnership Meeting
12:15pm**

**August 19 – Kindergarten Visits Color
Me Mine**

**August 21 – Kindergarten Orientation
4:00pm**

August 22 – Parent's Night Out

**September 1 – Center Closed: Labor
Day**



Connect with Bright Horizons



Language Works



Infants

From their very first cry, infants are born to communicate. As cries and coos turn into babbles and gestures, infants learn to use communication to connect with the world, to develop relationships with others, and to get what they need. Intentional interactions and a highly responsive environment encourage and positively support an infant's communication skills and are essential to optimal development.



Toddlers

Language at this age is starting to blossom, with the babbles and coos of infancy now transforming into the multiple-word phrases of toddlerhood. Teachers provide a language-rich environment that encourages your toddler's progress towards achievement of developmental milestones. Teachers continually model language, expand children's phrases, and engage them in rich conversations.

Preschool

The Preschool years are an exciting time of robust language development. Vocabularies blossom from a few hundred words to a few thousand and word comprehension takes off. Literacy and language experiences in our preschool classrooms collectively contribute to the development of a child's emerging speaking, reading, and writing skills by continually nurturing and challenging each child's language development.



Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have discovered the power of language and are excitedly experimenting every day. These animated storytellers are ready to build essential skills in reading, writing, verbal communication, and listening. Our teachers guide the children through these milestones as they successfully read a few sight words or write a short sentence for the first time.



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: STEM Education in the Early Childhood Classroom

STEM education has been receiving recent attention among early childhood teachers. The acronym STEM was developed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), and refers to curriculum related to the study of science, technology, engineering, and math. Educators and policy makers have made STEM education a priority for several reasons.

Fewer students are pursuing advanced degrees or careers in related fields, which might threaten America's ability to remain competitive in a technology-driven global market. Many of the jobs of the future will require STEM skills. Finally, the world is becoming increasingly complex, and individuals must have basic competencies in science, math, and technology in order to make sense of and process information.

Initially, STEM education was found mostly in elementary and secondary classrooms, but in recent years, it has become an essential part of early childhood curriculums, as well. Typically, activities planned with a STEM focus involve at least two of the four disciplines. Below are more detailed descriptions of each STEM component and how they relate to an early childhood classroom:

Science. The study of science includes physical science, life science, earth and space science, and more. Children gain scientific literacy through hands-on experiments and explorations.

Technology. Technology learning in early childhood classrooms includes new media, such as digital photography, computers, phones, and tablets, but don't forget about older technology, including pulleys, wedges, and other simple machines. Technology is any type of man-made machine or object designed to improve or simplify life.

Engineering. Budding engineers in early childhood classrooms learn the principles of building through play activities, such as experimenting with blocks, clay, or collage materials.

Math. A STEM math curriculum includes the study of numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability. These terms sound complicated, but in the early childhood classroom, they're as simple as comparing sets of objects, counting, making patterns, manipulating shapes, or measuring classroom equipment.

Read on for simple STEM education ideas to try at home:

- Combine STEM activities with play time or story time. For example, while reading the folk tale, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, you might make bridges out of blocks or other materials. Perhaps you'll study goats and chart the differences between real goats and "story" goats.
- Use hands-on, developmentally appropriate materials and activities.
- Capitalize on small, daily moments to introduce STEM topics. Mealtimes, for example, are an ideal time to teach math concepts, such as half, more, and equal. Observe the natural world while you're outdoors.
- Use questions to guide inquiry and exploration. "What" questions, such as, "What do you think will happen --?" or "What could we use to make --?" work well because they have no right answer. Such questions foster an atmosphere of acceptance, curiosity, and trust. Listen carefully to children's questions. Use their interests as a springboard for future inquiries or projects.

References

Moomaw, Sally (2013). *Teaching STEM in the Early Years*. Redleaf Press. St. Paul, MN.

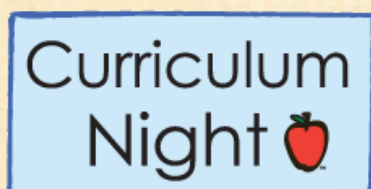
University of Northern Iowa Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (n.d.). *CEESTEM*. Retrieved from <http://www.uni.edu/coe/special-programs/regents-center-early-developmental-education/ceestem/games/math-games>

Bright Horizons News



Curriculum Night 2014: “A Day in the Life”

Experience a “Day in the Life” of your child at Curriculum Night 2014. Parents in all age groups are invited to join us for an orientation into your child’s upcoming year with Bright Horizons.



During the event you and your family will have the opportunity to: familiarize yourselves with your child’s classroom schedule and activities, see how the various pieces of *The World at Their Fingertips®* curriculum are brought to life each day, and meet with your child’s teachers to ask questions and discuss learning objectives for the upcoming year.

Share in your Bright Horizons experience and invite your friends and family to join you at Curriculum Night. Please see your Center Director or your child’s teacher if you have questions or would like more information about Curriculum Night.

SAVE THE DATE: September installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!



Bright Horizons Family Solutions® presenting in collaboration with guest speaker Amy McCready of [Positive Parenting Solutions](#), is bringing you the next installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series on positive school-age discipline.

Save the Date
September 16, 1:00 pm EST

Keep checking www.brighthouse.com/webinar for the latest registration information as it becomes available!