

Lawrenceville Ledger

January 2015



From the Director

Happy New Year!

December was full of holiday cheer and get-togethers throughout the Center. The children got into the holiday spirit of giving as they created beautiful gifts for their families. They also assisted in planning fun-filled get togethers for their families to join them in as they selected activities for them all to enjoy.

Looking forward into the new year, we are excited to welcome Justin's Jr. Sports back for 10 energizing weeks of sports and gross motor activities. The children always love tumbling, jumping on the trampoline, and learning new skills.

The Center is also busy planning several events that will take place within the next month. Be on the lookout for information about the Preschool Showcase, Kindergarten Open House and Camp Explorations Open House.

As always, we value your feedback and look forward to an exciting year with your families!

Important Dates

January 1 – Happy New Year! Center Closed

January 6 – Parent Partnership Meeting 12:15pm

January 12 – Justin's Jr. Sports

January 19 – Martin Luther King Day: Center Closed

January 26 – Justin's Jr. Sports



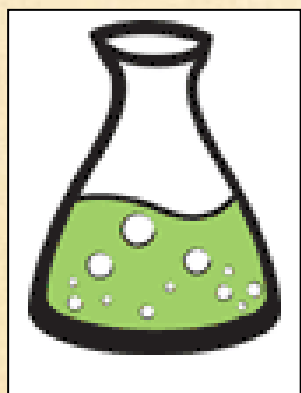
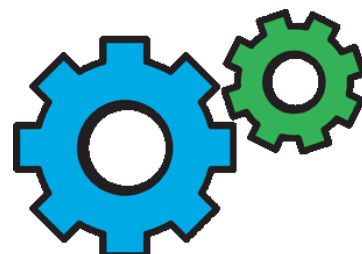
Connect with Bright Horizons



Science Rocks

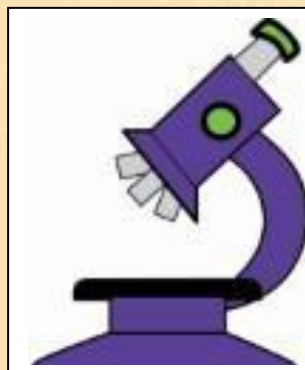


Infants Babies are born scientists: programmed to investigate, experiment, and discover how the world works. Science to infants is not found in elaborate experiments, but rather real world and everyday moments as they move through their environment, manipulate objects, and explore with all their senses. For babies, science is the shadows and lights dancing across the wall, the crunch of fall leaves in their fists, the sound of birds chirping, new teeth coming in, fog on the windows, and the taste of the toy they put in their mouths.



Toddlers Young children are scientists by nature. They are born with a strong sense of curiosity about how things work and an innate desire to make sense of the world. Toddlers display scientific behavior throughout their days, from stomping in puddles, to investigating a sandbox, to intently watching a butterfly in flight. Our curriculum nurtures and builds on these natural instincts, offering toddlers meaningful learning experiences that continually foster and develop their scientific thinking and skills.

Preschool Science Rocks expands on preschoolers innate interest in science by ensuring they have a myriad of meaningful scientific opportunities to explore, from taking apart an old telephone, to caring for classroom plants, to making carrot muffins for a cooking project. More than a science curriculum, Science Rocks is an overall attitude of inquiry and discovery. During the preschool years, teachers carefully plan science experiences that not only introduce scientific concepts and facts, but also nurture curiosity, wonder, engagement with the natural world, and critical thinking.



Kindergarten Children are natural scientists. They share an innate enthusiasm for investigation and discovery, and a genuine interest in learning how our world works. At Bright Horizons, we foster these interests by guiding exploration in early chemistry, biology, physics, earth science, geography, and more. You're likely to find kindergarteners practicing and applying science skills as they raise tadpoles, study rocks and fossils, or experiment with gravity.

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Encouraging an Interest in Geography

Preschoolers are not too young to learn about geography. Like most areas, if you keep it fun and communicate your own interest in the topic, children will become excited and interested in learning more. As you may be talking about places children have not seen, any way you can keep it as concrete as possible will be helpful (i.e., use real objects and pictures whenever you can). Let your child's interests lead you. If you end up with a different topic than where you started, that is great! Here are some ideas:

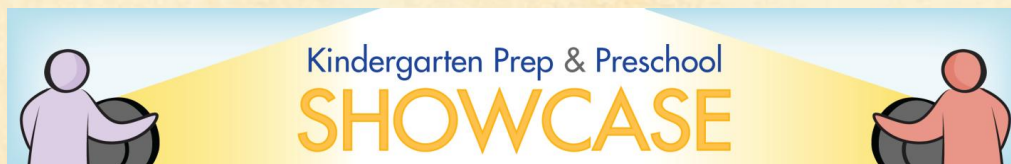
- An early stage in understanding geography is learning to use directional terminology. Regularly use directional words in talking to your child such as “next to,” “above,” “below,” “beside,” “right,” “left,” etc. Terms like “north,” “south,” “east,” and “west” may be a little too abstract for young children to comprehend.
- Let your child see you frequently using maps (even on your phone or electronic device) to decide your subway route or driving plans, to plan a vacation, etc.
- If you travel a lot as part of your work, have a map in your house and mark it with your child for each trip to show where you are traveling. Similarly, prior to your next family trip, mark the map when you travel together.
- On family trips, talk about how varying areas have different plants, animals, climates, terrain, etc. Talk about what is the same and different from where you live.
- When a book or TV program talks about a city, state or country your child is unfamiliar with, look it up on the map. Always have a map or atlas handy. You can also use the globe to find countries.
- Take a walk through your neighborhood or apartment building and create a map together with your child. Start with your house or apartment – talk about who lives next door and have your child draw that place if he is interested. Add favorite landmarks like playgrounds, a restaurant he likes to visit, his early care and education center, your workplace, or other places you visit frequently. Label the landmarks – you can write the letters and have your child copy them, or your child can use invented spelling to create the labels. Remember that the “doing” or the process of the activity is much more important than the accuracy and the final product.

There are many excellent children's atlases which use mostly pictures rather than words to describe areas of the world; we especially like *National Geographic Kids: The United States Atlas* or *Children's World Atlas* from DK Publishing. Consider purchasing one for a special birthday gift.

Bright Horizons News



See How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten – and Beyond!



Explore with us your child's NEXT classroom during our Preschool Showcase. This event offers families the opportunity to get a sneak peek to the next stage of education with Bright Horizons.

During the event, our teachers will be sharing classroom activities highlighting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematic) learning, offering ways in which families can extend STEM learning at home with your child.

Our Preschool Showcase event offers a chance to:

- Experience your child's NEXT classroom
- Engage in activities focused on STEM learning
- Meet with our teachers and be inspired by their love of education
- Connect with other families

To learn more about the Preschool Showcase event at your center, talk to your center director, or child's teacher. We look forward to you joining us during this family event, be on the lookout for your personal family invitation!



Parent Survey Coming Out This Month!

We value our families' input, and so we will be sending out the annual Parent Survey in early January.

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

The link to the survey will be open through Friday, February 6. Thank you in advance!