

Parkway North News

August 2014



Center News

September is going to be a great time to learn about the curriculum at Bright Horizons at Parkway North. We will be hosting two events that will showcase what your child will be learning about in the upcoming school year.

- September 16: Kindergarten Open House 5-6 p.m. (for Kindergarten parents)
- September 23: Curriculum Night 4-6 p.m. (all parents)



We hope to see you there

Important Dates

Aug 1: Family Picnic from 4-6 p.m.

Aug 12: Kindergarten Field Trip

California Pizza Kitchen

Aug 15: In-House Field Trip

Mr. Steve (Young Preschool and Up)

Aug 19: Jersey Day (wear your favorite jersey)

Aug 26: In-House Field Trip

Super Stolie (All ages)

Aug 29: Yogurt Social 4-6 p.m. (last day of summer)

Reasons to Celebrate

Aug 2: Happy Anniversary Ms. Leonor (15 yrs)

Aug 5: Happy Birthday Ms. Rehana

Aug 13: Happy Anniversary Ms. Shannon (7yrs) and Ms. Martha (1 yr)

Aug 16: Happy Anniversary Ms. Ruqia (4 yrs)

Aug 22: Happy Birthday Ms. Angie

Aug 27: Happy Birthday Ms. Sharon
Happy Anniversary Ms. Zhanna (2 yrs) and Ms. Amy (7 yrs)

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Classroom Highlights



Infants

In July both Infant classrooms did a lot of sensory activities in and out of the classroom. As the infants were exploring in the water sensory tray with different plastic animals, they learn to use their senses to explore the properties of an object.



Toddlers

In July, the Toddler unit spent a lot of time outdoors either on the deck or on the playground. While outside the children spent a lot of time exploring the sand in the sensory table. Therefore, the classroom thought this was a great opportunity for them to experiment with volume. They learned it by filling the buckets with sand and dumping them out again.

Young Preschool

The Young Preschool 1 room had snow in their classroom in the month of July! The classroom experimented with Instasnow in their sensory table. The children used shovels and funnels to move the snow around. As the children handled the snow they were using their sense of touch to learn that the snow was cold, fluffy, and light.

Young Preschool 2 learned all about shapes in the month of July. One of the activities the children did to practice their geometry was using a walking rope made of different shapes. This activity involved having the children listen to teacher instructions and identifying different shapes and colors.



Preschool

Preschool 1 spent some time learning about different zoo animals. As a dramatic art project, the children created their own zoo out of animal puppets! The children put the different puppets on wooden blocks to display them and then the children took turns visiting the zoo. As the children did this activity they are learning to assign and take on roles with their peers.

During the month of July, the Preschool 2 classroom learned about dinosaurs. The children got to make dinosaur eggs and then watch as the dinosaur hatched. For a math activity, the children got to measure dinosaur bones with the stacking cubes. The children also enjoyed playing with dinosaur fossils in the sensory table. The children are learning new vocabulary this week. They learned what extinct and fossils means.



Kindergarten Prep

During the month of July in Kindergarten Prep 1 they learned about Oceans and Ocean animals. One of the activities was to sort different seashells. The children had to separate them into different groups based on their color, shape, size or texture. This work helped them with their classification skills and to help them hone in on distinguishing between items with like characteristics.

In July, the Kindergarten Prep 2 class learned all about photography. They discovered that people take pictures in order to make memories and express themselves. During this unit, the children created their very own photo album and participated in a photo booth!

Kindergarten

On Tuesday, July 15th the Kindergarten class went to Sunshine Arts & Crafts in Highland Park. While they were there, the children enjoyed using a variety of colors as they painted!!! By participating in this fieldtrip your child is learning to purposefully choose art tools and materials to achieve desired outcomes and they are learning to understand features of our neighborhoods.



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.

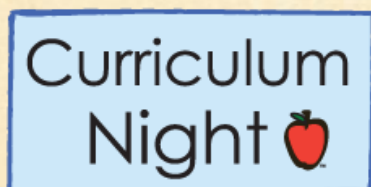
University of Northern Iowa Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (n.d.). *CEESTEM*. Retrieved from <http://www.uni.edu/coe/special-programs/regents-center-early-developmental-education/ceestem/games/math-games>

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](http://PositiveParentingSolutions.com), 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.brighthorizons.com/webinar for the latest registration information as it becomes available!