

Bright Horizons at Wilton

August 2014



From the Director

Hello Everyone!

Our summer camp is in full bloom. July was a super adventurous month, highlighted by our fabulous "Wilton Zoo". We hope everyone had a fun afternoon strolling through the zoo, conversing with friends and sharing some snacks. If you missed it, please enjoy viewing our animals in the front lobby. (Please no touching)

We also had our first "Parents Night Out". The children enjoyed pizza and a movie, while parents had some quiet time to themselves. We will plan another night in a few months.

Our summer camp continues in August with more weeks of exciting themes. Tie-dyeing T-shirts, a week of cooking delight, exploring shadows while pretending to go camping and experiencing more fantastic shows. We will end with a big "Summer Celebration" on August 29th. Please join us as Tom Weber entertains us with his lively music.

August 11th is "The Great Kindness Challenge". Our classrooms will be making cards for children who are less fortunate and need to spend time in the Hospital. A simple reminder that they are special can sometimes be the best medicine.

Happy Summer to all!

Important Dates

August 11th – The Great Kindness Challenge

August 19th – Parent Partnership Meeting

August 29 – Please join us for our end of summer celebration with Tom Weber. More info to follow.

September 1st – Center will be closed for Labor Day.

Reasons to Celebrate HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Giavanni Cagninelli – August 6th – 5 years old
Madison Switter – August 12th – 4 years old
Nicolas Blizzard – August 14th – 4 years old
Clara Marjani – August 17th – 3 years old
Gabriel Miller – August 20th – 4 years old
Makayla Joyce – August 22nd – 4 years old
Conner DeLeo – August 22nd – 1 year old
Aiden De Stronie Kostrzewski – August 28th – 2 years old
Olivia Sanchez – August 30th – 2 years old

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Classroom Highlights



Infants

As part of **“Our World”**, infants enjoy a friendship circle. They recognize and interact with familiar friends while facing each other. They respond to their teachers voices and express affection and happiness.



Toddlers

Toddler 1 and Toddler 3 combined for a **Movement Matters** activity during “Big Dig” week of summer camp. They created dinosaur feet by painting empty tissue boxes and adding big yellow paper toes. Smiles and laughter filled the room as they stomped around to music wearing their own dinosaur feet!

Preschool/Kindergarten-prep

During “Ocean” week of summer camp, everyone explored sea creatures at a visit from the Maritime Center. Through **“Science Rocks”**, they use their senses, inquiry and discovery to investigate and learn about the different creatures. Some children even touched a Horseshoe crab!



WILTON ZOO

All classes enjoyed a “Trip to the Zoo”. Friends and families joined us for a fun afternoon. Our day at the zoo was a huge success!



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.

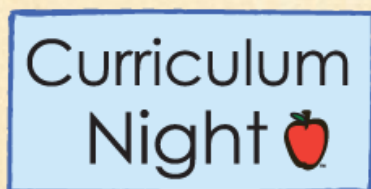
University of Northern Iowa Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (n.d.). *CEESTEM*. Retrieved from <http://www.uni.edu/coe/special-programs/regents-center-early-developmental-education/ceestem/games/math-games>

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.brighthorizons.com/webinar for the latest registration information as it becomes available!