

Discoveries Learning Center

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July 2015

Our tax ID # is:
04-2949680



From the Director

Welcome to Discoveries' Planet Water! During the summer we explore and learn everything we can about water. We have a fun and fantastic Summer Program planned with biweekly curriculum themes of Marine Life, Beach Fun, Art week, Pirate Adventures and Camping Trips! Woven into this curriculum are many wonderful learning activities: Science projects involving Marine Biology and the Physical Science linking water and liquids: flow/gravity, evaporation/steam/vapor, and the changes of frozen/solid liquids, our favorites being ice-blocking down the slopes and the making of ice cream! Children will be involved with the Math skills of patterning, counting, adding and sorting shells, rocks and driftwood. The Language learning will be rich with reading from our huge collection of books about Marine Life.

We ask that YOU sunscreen your child every morning on all the parts that are exposed. If you forget to do it at home, we have Babyganics sunscreen in the office for you to put on them at school. During the day, if the child undresses, we will sunscreen the newly exposed skin. We will also re-apply in the afternoon if needed. If you wish us to use some other kind of sunscreen, please bring a bottle, labeled with the child's name.



We are excited to prepare for a new school year with many new and returning

Important Dates

June 29-July 10

Introduction to Marine Life



July 4, Saturday

Independence Day

Discoveries is OPEN on Friday

July 21

Parent Talk Times

(see below)

July 13-July 24

Beach Week

July 22, Wednesday at 9:45 a.m.

**School House Field Trip to
UCSB's Marine Laboratory**

July 27-July 31

Week of Art

August 27 & 28

Staff Development Days

Discoveries is closed

(Be sure to consult the calendar in the kiosk and copies in the office for Discoveries' yearly closure dates and events)

TRY THIS AT HOME: Homemade Bubbles

Children of all ages love bubbles and it's quite easy to make your own. Simply mix 1 quart water, 8 tbsp. liquid detergent, 4 tbsp. glycerin, and 2 tsp. sugar. Make a bubble blower by bending a coat hanger into a circle. Try your new bubble solution at the beach or while waiting for an outdoor concert to start!

Connect with Bright Horizons



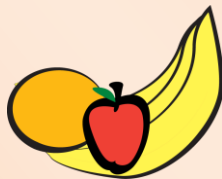
Birthday Celebrations at Discoveries (revised 7/1/15):

A young child's birthday is a monumental event to both parent and child. At Discoveries, we wish to validate this important event while not overwhelming or over-stimulating the daily routines of the children in our care. An option of a "non-food" suggestion can be donating a book in the child's honor with a label inside with your child's name in that says "donated in honor of (child's name) Birthday on 6/1/2015.

If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at the Center you may do so by providing a special treat. We will only allow you a nutritious snack (see below for options) and avoid sugary choices. **You must let one of your child's classroom teachers know if you are planning on bringing in a special treat at least two days prior to the celebration day**, so that classroom parents will be able to provide an alternate, "special" snack for their children who may be allergic to the treat you are serving. If you need suggestions for age-appropriate birthday snacks or treats, see below what is approved. Verify that the special treat meets our regulations of no nuts and is not processed in a factory alongside nuts – per our Nut Safe Center guidelines, and had a label for ingredient verification. Please be aware that if the item does not meet our policies, the item will unfortunately not be permitted.

Approved Healthy Treats:

- Fresh Fruit
- Muffins
- Fruit-Juice Popsicles
- Fresh Fruit and Yogurt



Discoveries Tuition Changes for the 2015 - 2016 School Year

Scheduled tuition rates will change in **September**.

Please see the attached Tuition Rate Sheet.

The hourly rate for extra-hours and drop-ins will be at:

- \$12/hour in the School House
- \$13/hour in the Farm House and
- \$14/hour in the Toddler House

Please schedule any extra-hours or drop-in days in the office a week ahead of time to improve availability.



Going NUT FREE

Our Center is **peanut and nut safe facility**. Please carefully review labels of any foods you send in with your child to the center to ensure they are "nut safe" and have no warning labels of potential peanut or tree nut traces or manufactured on equipment that processes peanuts or tree nuts to eliminate any potential risk to children with severe nut allergies. Any food that is brought in for *sharing* among the children must be either whole fruits or commercially prepared packaged foods in pre-sealed containers. Only sealed products with ingredient labels verifying there are no nuts, no nut products and no potential traces of nuts from the equipment used for processing will be served to the children. If you would like ideas for substitution, center administration would be able to provide you with preferred items.

PARENT TALK TIME

Discoveries Parents are invited to our first Discoveries' Monthly Parent Talk Time! These parent talk times will be a great way for the center administration to get parent perspectives on events, programs, and personal experiences you may have here at Discoveries. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21st from 12-1. We look forward to seeing you there!

♥ RINA'S CORNER ♥

When you take your children to get their shots, please remember to bring us a copy of your child's updated yellow card, or a copy from the doctor's office. Thank you to all the parents who have been following up with me and ensuring that all our children's files stay up to date! We appreciate your diligence in this matter.

READY for SCHOOL



READY for SCHOOL News: Math All Around Us

Forget worksheets and drills. Math is all around us, just waiting to be discovered. Preschoolers seem to be natural mathematicians. By simply being aware of math experiences in your daily life, you can provide a rich learning environment for your young child.

Counting objects. Counting objects is one of the first math skills preschoolers and toddlers learn. Most children love counting objects in the environment – ducks at the park, cars on the street, or stuffed animals on the bed.

Make a game of counting wherever you go. Count the stairs as you go up them. Count the crackers you offer for snack. Ask your child to count out enough cups, spoons, or plates for every member of your family.

Sorting and patterning. Early sorting, classifying, and patterning experiences not only lay the foundation for future math work, but they also help develop organized thinking and pre-reading skills, since recognizing letter and word patterns is necessary for decoding words.

Ask your child to sort dishes or cups according to their color or type. Match socks when you're doing the laundry. Look for patterns in nature. For example, most flowers and leaves are symmetrical. A tree grows in concentric rings, evident if you look at a tree stump.

Seriating. Seriating is the ability to sort objects in a specific order, such as small, medium, and large, or first, next, last. Like sorting, classifying, and patterning, seriating helps children develop the executive function skills, such as attention and critical thinking, necessary for later academic success.

To build seriating skills, ask your child to sort similar objects, such as shoes, by small, medium, and large. Give your child simple three-part directions, such as, "Hang up your coat, wash your hands, and sit down."

One-to-One Correspondence. One to one correspondence is the understanding that one object can be matched with one object, i.e., one sock with one shoe or one plate with one cup. Learning this concept gives numbers meaning. Just as children learn that the letters of the alphabet make sounds and can create words, children must understand that numbers are meaningful; they are used to count objects and define quantities.

To teach one-to-one correspondence, pair up toys, dishes, shoes, and other items around the house. On paper, draw lines from one sticker or drawing to another.

Bright Horizons News



July installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!



The Caregiving Generation

Presented in collaboration with Long Term Solutions

Tuesday, July 28, 2:30 p.m. EST

Caring for aging relatives is an overwhelming responsibility. Today, the graying of America has brought “sandwich” responsibilities to millions of people – with everyone from Millennials to Boomers struggling under the weight of this enormous job. What’s the secret to managing these responsibilities? How can working adults effectively provide care for their loved ones and themselves?

Join **Bright Horizons**® for the next Family Matters webinar as we discuss what caregiving looks like in today’s world, how you can cope, and strategies for effectively managing your life, and theirs.

Want to join us in July? [Register now!](#)

Parents Magazine Spotlights Bright Horizons Expert

Parents

Bright Horizons was referenced in the July 2015 edition of *Parents Magazine*. The article, titled “The Child-care Checklist,” is a comprehensive piece about choosing a child care program for toddlers and features Linda Whitehead, our Vice President of Education and Development here at Bright Horizons. Linda receives the leading quote in the article and throughout the piece, discusses the various things that parents should be looking for as they try to find the right program for their children. Among other things, Linda talks about the importance of examining the curriculum and that parents should ensure that the program offers regular opportunities to learn through hands-on materials, exploration and play.

Parents is one of the most reputable magazines in the parenting space and maintains a 2.1 million monthly readership base so this is a great opportunity for both Linda and Bright Horizons.