

A Great Place for a Childhood

April 2015



From Brandi's Desk

Re- Registration

We have been sending out notices to update children's files and immunizations over the past month. In your box you will find information on early bird re-registration. Re-registration helps us to carefully plan transitions and staffing over the summer and fall months.

Parent Volunteers

We are looking for parent volunteers to help plan May's Teacher Appreciation Month and our spring Garden Works projects. If you have a few minutes to spare, let us know!

Safety Reminders

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times on our property. Please do not leave children in cars (even older children) or allow children to go ahead of you into the courtyard. We have had a few near misses with children making it out near the cars.

Spring is here

Take a few minutes to swap out your child's extra cold weather clothes with spring clothes.

Important Dates

April 3	Center Closed
April 4-30	Early Bird Reregistration
April 13-17-	Week of the Young Child and Open House



Music Monday
Taco Tuesday
Build Together Wednesday
Art Tuesday
Family Friday

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Bright Horizons Anniversary to...

April 22 Bri 7 years



Connect with Bright Horizons



2015 Week of the Young Child

Monday April 13th – Music Monday. Dance party for each age group in the hallway. Come dance to world music, dance music, new and old favorites.

Tuesday April 14th – Taco Tuesday. Our Preschool and Kindergarten Prep classes will be making a morning snack in the hallway or parents can join their child (any age) for a taco lunch!

Wednesday April 15th – Work Together Wednesday. We will work in small groups on a center-based building project. Join in on the building fun when you pick-up!

Thursday April 16th – Art Thursday. Each classroom will design and create birthday cards for children using our Bright Spaces. Art supplies will be available in the Art Studio if you'd like to make one at drop-off or pick-up. The cards will be sent to the **Bright Horizons Foundation** to share with all Bright Spaces.

Friday April 17th – Family Friday. Check your cubbies for your invitation to each classroom's own family-focused activities.

What is the Week of the Young Child™?

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child™ in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.



READY for SCHOOL Parent News - Purposeful Play: A Child's Work

At Bright Horizons, we believe that play has tremendous value in the lives of young children. Through play, children learn language skills, such as vocabulary and conversational turn taking. They learn to compromise, listen, and work together. Play builds self-regulation, focus, and impulse control – important skills for later learning. Play helps children master potentially unsettling experiences, such as going to school, moving, or bringing home a new baby.

But what exactly is play and what does it look like? Play is more than merely handing a child a few props or blocks. By observing a child's play, thoughtful teachers and parents can gain valuable insights into children's developmental levels, fears, and interests.

The Stages of Play

Babies and toddlers use play as a vehicle for exploring the world and mastering their own bodies. At this stage, they touch, smell, and taste toys. They may bang toys together or pound them on the ground. Babies are curious about how the world works, which is why kitchen cupboards are so enticing. Babies open drawers and cupboards, dump and pour liquids, or stack objects and knock them down.

Older toddlers and preschoolers engage in more symbolic play. Objects and toys become meaningful. For example, a toddler pushes a car across the floor, making revving sounds as she goes. A preschooler might "cook" you a pretend meal.

As children develop and gain language skills, their play becomes more mature. They may assign roles ("you be the mom and I'll be the baby") and they may continue the play for more than one day. At this age, children are able to give symbolic meaning to random objects. A pinecone, for example, becomes food.

Supporting Children's Play

We know that play is critically important for children's development. How then can we protect and nurture children's play? Below are a few suggestions for fostering purposeful play both in the classroom and at home:

- Create both indoor and outdoor spaces for play. These spaces don't necessarily need a lot of toys, but they should be areas where children feel safe to explore and even make messes.
- Offer open-ended toys and props, such as wooden blocks, simple clothing, and dishes.
- Scaffold (support and build) children's play with picture books or additional props. For example, perhaps the children are acting out a theme of dragons and knights. Read a few books about dragons or make cardboard shields.
- Add paper and writing materials so the children can make signs, menus, crowns, or other props.
- Allow plenty of time for play. Children often need at least 45 minutes to 1 hour to really engage in and deepen play. They're less likely to dig into complex play themes if they're accustomed to frequent or abrupt transitions.

Resources

Tools of the Mind (2015) Supporting Make Believe Play. Retrieved from <http://www.toolsofthemind.org/parents/make-believe-play/>.

Bright Horizons News



Join Bright Horizons in Celebrating Earth Day on April 22

Mark your calendars – April 22nd is Earth Day!



We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. We have many suggestions for green projects on our [Bright Horizons Going Green board](#) on Pinterest. Small changes can lead to a big impact! So remember to bring your reusable bag to the store, plant a flower with your child, or bring in some supplies from home for your center to reuse for an art project.

Interested in learning more about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our eFamily news article: [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

However you choose to celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful Earth Day.

Help a Friend Discover Bright Horizons during our Spring Open House Week!



This April we will be hosting an Open House Week for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining the Bright Horizons family, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them! See Center Director for details.

COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month



Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month is coming!

Each year, we take the month of May to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families. Please mark your calendars!