

A Great Place for a Childhood

November 2014



From Brandi's Desk

Fall Festival of Lights

Grab your passports and join us for an evening of festival fun on Friday, November 21st from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Each classroom is researching a "Festival of Music" from another country. You and your child can tour all of the classroom "festivals", getting your passport stamped at each stop and then join us for a chili dinner when you are finished with your travels.

Triangle Truck Day

We hope to see everyone at our 3rd Annual Triangle Truck Day on Saturday, November 15th! It is a great opportunity to come out and explore community vehicles and raise money for the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per child. There will also be food trucks there if you wish to purchase lunch.

Fall Reminders

- Pick up the new Fall door code
- Time to change out your child's extra clothes to fall clothes
- We go outside each day for over two hours, be sure to bring a jacket
- Be sure to like us on facebook



Important Dates

November 10-23: Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For? (see pg. 4 for details)

November 15: Truck Day 10:0am-1:00pm at the Bright Horizons at Harrison Park.

November 21: 4:00-6:00 **International Fall Festival** and Chili Dinner

November 27: Center Closed

November 28: Center Closed

Upcoming Dates:

December 24, 25, 26, 31 Center Closed

January 1 Center Closed

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Bright Horizons Anniversary to...

11/1 Debra (2-1) 8 Years

11/24 Darlene (T-1) 16 Years



Connect with Bright Horizons



Center Highlights



Read for the Record

On October 21, our center participated in Jumpstart's Read for the Record, a national campaign that mobilizes families and children across America to set the world record for the largest shared reading experience. We were honored to have Andrea Blanford reporter for ABC 11 to be our guest reader that day. Read for the Record is a great tie into our Language Works curriculum, which creates a literacy-rich environment cultivating a love of language, books, and reading through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. A BIG thank you to Andrea for helping us bring awareness to the importance of early literacy!



Trike-A-Thon

The children had a great time raising money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. We learned about bike safety and then rode around the playground and back through the center of the building! Everyone took home a "Driver's License" at the end of the day. It was a fun way to implement our Towards a Better World curriculum.

Outdoor Science Laboratory

Our busy little scientists are learning to use the microscopes to explore the Fall leaves and slides of different species of plants. Take a minute to step out into our laboratory one afternoon and explore.



Spanish with Gloria!

We are enjoying our new Spanish teacher Ms. Gloria. She comes on Wednesdays from 9am-3pm. We had a great time using pumpkins and Mr. Potato Head parts to learn Spanish words for body parts and colors.



READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Measurement

Preschool children like to compare objects or people and often want to figure out which is bigger, longer, or heavier. They especially love to compare themselves to others – who is taller, whose hair is longer, who is the oldest, etc. We can take advantage of these opportunities to help children learn the basics of measurement. Children typically progress through a series of stages in understanding measurement (Copley, 2000):

- 1) Comprehending that objects can be compared and measured and understanding the meaning of questions like “how long is this?,” “how heavy is that?,” etc.
- 2) Making comparisons themselves, such as judging which block is shorter, which rock is heavier, etc.
- 3) Determining an appropriate unit and process for measurement
- 4) Using standard units of measurement (inch, pound, centimeter, etc.)
- 5) Creating and using formulas to help count units

During the preschool and kindergarten years, children primarily focus on stages 1 and 2 and may begin to work on the concept of “unit” in the third step. Steps four and five are typically focused on in the elementary school years.

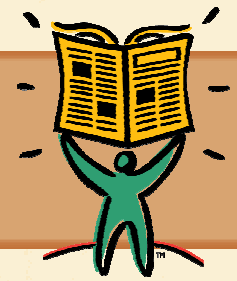
What kinds of activities encourage the development of measurement in preschool and kindergarten children? Here are a few samples to get you started:

- Use measurement and comparison language frequently in your incidental conversations with your child.
 - “This grapefruit feels really heavy. Is it heavier or lighter than this orange?”
 - “This tablecloth is too short for this table. Let’s find a longer one.”
 - “Do you think this pitcher will hold all the juice?”
- Include language that compares time (earlier, later, tomorrow, next week); temperature (warmer, colder); and capacity (holds more, holds less).
- Consider introducing non-standard measurement. “This fire truck is four blocks long.” Offer children opportunities to practice non-standard measurement. “Let’s see how many hands long this rug is.”
- You can also incidentally introduce standard measurement language (Talk about gallons, liters, yards, meters, etc. during your daily life as you pour milk or juice, measure wood for a home improvement project, etc.)
- You might provide a plastic bin filled with water or cornmeal as a place for your child to practice with volume and capacity. As children pour from a tall, thin cylinder to a short, fat cylinder, for example, they are developing a concept that Jean Piaget called “conservation.” If a child understands the concept of conservation of volume, he/she knows that a tall, thin container can hold the same as a short, fat container. Piaget’s research showed that children learned to conserve around age seven or later. More recent research has been showing children conserving earlier than that.
- Provide tools for measurement for children’s easy access throughout the day (rulers, meter sticks, bathroom scales, etc.).

Reference:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Bright Horizons News



Submit your art during Nov. 10-23, and it will be displayed in a Bright Space!



Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For? is an opportunity for the Bright Horizons community, parents and teachers alike, to come together and support the **Bright Horizons Foundation For Children®** by submitting art that illustrates the answer to “What are you thankful for?” The resulting piece of collaborative artwork will be proudly displayed in all **Bright Spaces®** (Bright Spaces are warm, safe, and enriching spaces in shelters and agencies across the country that allow children to heal from trauma through play and experience the joy of childhood).

The Bright Horizons community will be invited to upload the artwork via social media or email it to thankful@brighthorizons.com. Submissions will be accepted from November 10-23. Participation is optional.

How to Grow a Giver this Holiday Season: Family Resources for Teaching Compassion



As a parent, you try to raise your child to become an active, compassionate member of society. [Growing Givers](#) is a resource to help you find age-appropriate activities, projects, and volunteer opportunities to encourage empathy, caring, and compassion for the world and all its people. *Growing Givers* offers ideas for how you can promote empathy and social awareness through your daily interactions and modeling with children and through service opportunities from home or out in the community.

As fall and winter holidays approach, we’ve collected a list of resources from *Growing Givers* that can help you come up with easy ways to incorporate giving into your family’s routine:

- **(Parenting Blog Posts)** [Family Volunteering: Tips for Finding Ways to Give Back](#), [Teaching Manners and Good Behavior Through Books](#), [How to Raise a Grateful Child](#)—join the conversation on *The Family Room* blog: <http://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/>.
- **(Community Topics)** [Volunteering with Small Children](#), [Donating Old Toys to Charity](#)
- **(E-family News)** – [The Caring Connection: Teaching Empathy to Children](#), [Raising Caring and Giving Children](#)
- **(Family Matters Series Webinars)** Raising a Socially Responsible Child ([Part I](#) & [Part II](#))—featuring Bright Horizons early education experts and guests from *The Volunteer Family*

Visit www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers for additional resources and at-home activities to promote empathy and social awareness.