

Bright Horizons @ Research Triangle Park

November 2015

Khya Japp, Director



From the Director

You are Invited

Join us for our
Family Feast
on Tuesday, November 24,
2015
at 11:00 a.m.

Our programs will participate in our Family Feast served in your child's classroom!

Please rsvp by Tuesday, November 17
at the front desk.

We hope you can join us for this
special event!

Khya



Important Dates

November 14th

Triangle Truck Day!

(see pg. 4 for details)

Thank you Erik(Soren's Dad) for providing a bus for our truck day! ☺

November 24th

Family Feast

11am-12:30pm

November 26-27

**Center Closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday**



Reasons to Celebrate

November 27

Happy Anniversary Ms.

Lisa- 14 years with Bright Horizons!



Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Highlights



Great Places
for Babies™



From birth, babies are marvelous learners, immediately investigating the sights, sounds, and feel of the world. Long before walking and talking, they are exploring their own bodily powers and what the world has to offer. They need a safe world rich with opportunities to actively explore and enjoy: to see, hear, feel, touch, and move. The *World at Their Fingertips* curriculum provides infants with a rich learning environment full of appropriate learning centers, indoors and outdoors, that maximize motor, sensory, cognitive, language, music, and personal expression experiences.

As seen in the photo, our infants are exploring a variety of textures, shapes, and sizes in the *Movement Matters* area of our Infants classroom and outdoors. Our infant team strives to ensure that each child in their care is challenged to grow and develop from the variety of experiences that are available. They strategically place little learners in centers that will interest and engage each child, and of course promote development through interactions as well!



School Readiness Myths

It is not unusual to hear school readiness “myths” in the broader culture. These typically are not based on sound educational theory. Here are a few common school readiness myths and the accompanying correct information:

- **Myth #1:** Learning the ABCs/alphabet is crucial to school readiness. **The Truth:** Learning the ABCs/alphabet is a memorization skill. While it is important, and will help children understand the idea of alphabetical order in the future, learning to recognize and name letters and identify their sounds is even more important.
- **Myth #2:** Children need to know how to count to 50 before going to first grade/primary school. **The Truth:** Similar to learning the ABCs/alphabet, counting to 10, 50, or 100 is a rote memorization skill. Again, while it helps children understand that there is an order to numbers, far more important is understanding the idea of 1-to-1 correspondence (that each number you count has a corresponding object, person, year, etc. to go with it) and understanding quantity (i.e., that “three” means “three objects”).
- **Myth #3:** The more “teacher-directed” the learning, the better. In other words, if a teacher is directly telling children something, that will increase their learning. **The Truth:** Actually, we know that children internalize concepts more fully when they are doing things – when they are digging, building, balancing, jumping, writing, counting, etc. vs. being told by someone else.
- **Myth #4:** The more a program looks like the “school” we remember as children (desks, teacher up in front of the classroom, etc.), the more the children will learn. **The Truth:** Young children learn best in an environment that allows them to make choices (builds decision-making skills and independence); to select their own learning materials for at least part of the day (children are inherently motivated to learn); and empowers them to try new things with a teacher who guides the learning (children learn through active engagement with the people and materials in their environment).
- **Myth #5:** Children need quiet to learn. **The Truth:** Actually, children need a language-rich environment where caring adults provide responsive language interactions (your child makes a sound; you respond); where children’s language is expanded (your child points to a cat and says “cat”; you say – “Yes, that striped cat is getting ready to climb the tree”); and where new vocabulary is regularly introduced.
- **Myth #6:** Learning to write is all about letter formation. **The Truth:** While letter formation is one part of learning to write, equally, or even more important, is understanding the idea of recording one’s ideas on paper. When a child makes some scribbles and says “This is my daddy,” write your child’s words on the picture and she will begin to make the connection between the spoken and written word. Regularly record what your child says. Longer dictated stories can become illustrated “books” which can be laminated to read again and again.

Learning some “school skills” like lining up and raising hands before transitioning to school will certainly make the transition to formal schooling easier. However, what is most important is giving children the chance to fully explore and experiment in an environment with caring adults who guide, support, and extend their learning.

Bright Horizons News



Family Matters Webinar Series Recap: *Parent/Teacher Partnerships: The Keys to Successful Relationships*

Miss the September Family Matters webinar on Parent-Teacher Partnerships? We featured Bright Horizons education experts Melanie Brooks and Ruth Fidino, who shared ideas for how you can partner with your child's child care and elementary school teachers. Together, Melanie, Ruth, and the webinar audience tackled key issues like mutual respect, trust, and open communication between teachers and parents.

Join Us to Change the Life of a Child

This November, many centers are raising money for the *Bright Horizons Foundation for Children*® in a special "FUNdraiser" in support of *Bright Spaces*®. We invite you to join us and help change the life of a child in crises. So when you join us for Triangle Truck Day on November 14th from 10:30-12:30, YOU are the power of change for children who are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or other trauma.

Bright Horizons families have a long history of supporting Bright Spaces through donations to the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children. You have been part of making real and meaningful changes in the lives of thousands of children through our Bright Spaces. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.



This superhero family recently participated in a Superhero Walk at the Bright Horizons at the Ranch Reserve in Colorado.

Bright Spaces are warm, safe, enriching places in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and other agencies for children and youth experiencing homelessness or other crises to: build caring relationships, heal from trauma through play, and experience the joy of childhood. They are created and supported through partnerships with community agencies, financial sponsors, a Bright Horizons center, school or department, and the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children.

www.brighthousefoundation.org