

Bright Horizons at Cranberry News

From the Director

Summer is just around the corner this month and it's such an exciting time- warm, sunny weather, swimming, vacations, welcoming summer campers, etc.! We hope everyone has fabulous and safe vacations!

It's also hard to ignore that it's a sad time for us here at the center as throughout the summer we say goodbye to so many wonderful families that have joined us for years. K-Prep and Kindergarteners have graduated and although we are so happy to see how much they have grown, they will be greatly missed! To all of our families that we are saying goodbye to this summer- Thank you for sharing your children with us, whether it was since they were an infant or just for the year, we have enjoyed and cherished having them here and helping them learn and grow! We wish you all the best!

Important Dates

June 6: Summer Camp Begins

June 17: Father's Day Event, 10-11am

June 22: Parent Partnership Group Meeting, 12-1pm

July: Lunch and Learn- date TBD

Reasons to Celebrate

The teachers would like to celebrate the families of our center and thank you for all of the touches that helped to make their teacher appreciation week so special. Without great families like ours, we wouldn't get to have the very special jobs we have, helping your children learn and grow each day!

Bright Horizons at Cranberry

1000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 201, Cranberry
Twp., PA, 16066

724.940.8324 | bhcranberry@brighthorizons.com

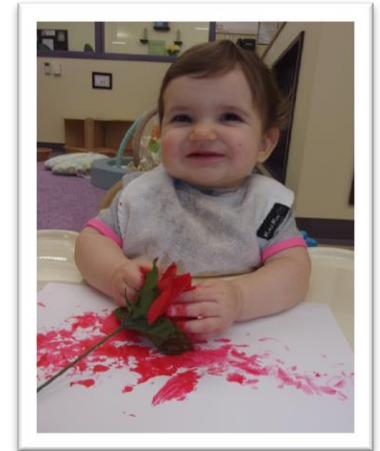
Monday-Friday 6:00am-6:00pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infants

In May, Infant 3 spent time exploring flowers! The children engaged in Art Smart activities focusing on visual art. The infants learned to use their senses to investigate the world around them and to use simple tools to develop their small muscle skills by exploring materials with varied textures and colors and by painting with objects such as silk flowers! The infants used their fine and gross motor skills to hold a flower and glided it across the paper to make their own painting. Once each picture was completed and dried, they looked at each one to see how unique they were!



Toddlers

In May, the Toddler 3 classroom participated in a variety of learning activities to become familiar with different types of bugs. Their favorite Science Rocks activity was creating water bugs. Miss Chelsea put a handful of raisins in a clear cup and then filled it up with seltzer water. The toddlers observed closely as the raisins started bouncing up and down inside of the cup. They were pointing and shouting "Whoa!" Some of our older toddler friends even began saying "Bugs, bugs." The toddlers learned to question when exploring materials by discussing with Miss Chelsea and Miss Ciara how the bubbles inside the cup helped the raisins to float, making them look like water bugs!



Twos

In May, Twos 2 has explored life at the pond, frogs, bugs and insects and butterfly life cycles! In our Art Smart center we have been exploring watercolor paints, mixing water and dry paint to create beautiful paintings of ponds and things that may live around them! Math Counts gave us an opportunity to bring our favorite song to life, 'Five Green and Speckled Frogs' with the use of beanbag frogs and a real log! In our Science Rocks area we have been looking at different stages of both the frog and butterfly life cycles with plastic representations of each. We have also been observing live caterpillars as they make the change to a butterfly! We are very excited to see they have now formed chrysalises. Our favorite part of Science Rocks this month was introducing our new classroom pet, a live frog! We are still working on a name for our new friend!



Kindergarten Prep

In May, K-Prep3 took a closer look at some of their favorite stories through Language Works experiences. Bringing music to life, in an Art Smart lesson, the children sang about Eric Litwin's Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons and his "new white shoes". The children practiced lacing up a shoe and even dared to tie a bow as they practiced a life skill during a Well Aware lesson! Based off of "the Elephant and Piggie" stories by Mo Willems, the children wrote their own short stories with the Gerald and Piggie characters. They finished the week with Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar and are using their Science Rocks skills to observe live caterpillars in the classroom!



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Phonological Awareness: Ideas for Home

Maybe you've heard of phonological awareness, and are left wondering what it really means? Phonological awareness is more than letter and sound recognition; it is the awareness of groups of sounds or individual sounds within words. Several studies suggest that children who enter school with strong phonological awareness skills tend to become better readers (Adams, 1990; Snow et al., 1998). Literacy experts, V. Susan Bennett-Armistead, Nell K. Duke, and Annie M. Moses, consider the following phonological awareness skills critical to later reading success:

1. Separating words into syllables or beats
2. Recognizing rhyming words
3. Generating (coming up with) rhyming words
4. Recognizing words that start or end with the same sound
5. Generating words that start or end with the same sound
6. Blending sounds into words
7. Segmenting words into sounds
8. Moving sounds around to create new words

Children who can recognize patterns and beats in words, rhymes, and beginning and ending sounds use these skills later to break down and decode words, spell words, and even figure out new words.

Every child is different, but children typically learn to separate words into syllables or beats before they can rhyme, blend sounds, or segment words. Children can typically recognize words before they can generate them. Blending words, which means sounding out a written word, such as c-a-t to spell cat, typically comes before segmenting words, or breaking a spoken word apart to spell it.

Fostering your child's phonological awareness needn't be time-consuming or difficult. Try playing word games in the car or establishing a nightly bedtime reading ritual. Below are a few strategies to try:

- Sing every day. Music almost always contains patterns, rhythms, and rhymes, making it a perfect introduction to phonological awareness. Try leaving the ending word out of a phrase and see if the children can remember it. Silly songs like "Down by the Bay" and "Willoughby Wallaby Woo" (both available from Raffi) encourage rhyming and even allow children to generate their own rhymes.
- Read Mother Goose rhymes and poetry to the children. Read tongue twisters and stories with alliteration. Picture books with repetitive, rhyming texts, such as "I Went Walking," by Sue Williams and "Brown Bear, Brown Bear," by Bill Martin Jr. build confidence and encourage participation.
- Play word games. Say a word and then break it into syllables, using one of two techniques. Clap each syllable or place your hand under your chin and count the number of times your mouth opens to say a vowel. Play the "rubber band" game. Say a word and then stretch it out, stretching your hands apart as you say and prolong each sound. Then snap your hands back together, saying the word quickly.

Chances are, you're already doing many of these things intuitively. With just a little intentional effort, you can create rich phonological awareness experiences for your child.

CENTER MARKETING NEWS

Learning at Home Activities

Our Learning at Home ideas offer parents fun ways to extend their child's learning opportunities beyond the classroom. These activities cover key developmental and academic areas, including social skills, language acquisition, science, math, learning to read, and more.

Infant: [Peak – A - Photo](#)

Glue six to eight photographs onto a poster board. Attach pieces of cloth to the board by gluing along the top edge of each photograph. Hiding each photograph, say to your baby, "Let's find Aunt Agnes;" then lift the cloth and comment, "Oh, here she is!"

Toddlers: [Color Cards](#)

Show your child one color at a time and have him or her find something in the area that is the same color, or think of something that is that color. Having the card to look at while you say the name of the color is a great help for toddlers who are learning their colors.

Preschool: [Creating Science Collections](#)

Talk about collecting with your child and ask what kind of things your child would like to collect. If your child likes rocks, go to an area where there are many rocks. Go outside and start collecting. Have your child put each object into the container to add to his/her new collection. Display the collections in the home.

K-Prep: [Grocery Shopping](#)

This activity encourages children to assist in shopping and helps with reading skills. Make a list of needed shopping items. Prepare a visual list ahead of time or have children help cut pictures of items out of newspaper, magazine, or ads and glue onto paper. Go to the grocery store. Have children use child pencil, crayon, or marker to mark off items when found.

Kindergarten: [Family Culture Collage](#)

Have children help select the photographs and items. Ask them why that particular photo/item was chosen. Write what your child says. Keep small pieces away from younger siblings. If your child selects heavy objects to attach, you may need to provide heavier paper or cardboard for the base or have your child turn it into a 3-dimensional sculpture.

CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

