

Bright Horizons at Cranberry News

From the Director

**We are excited to share that
Spring Picture Day
is coming this Month!**

Picture days provided by LifeTouch Preschool Portraits, are scheduled for Monday, May 15 and Tuesday, May 16. In order to ensure the event runs as smooth as possible, please make note of the following reminders:

*Please complete a picture form in order for your child's photos to be taken. For your convenience, forms have been put in all of the cubbies and extras can also be found in the downstairs lobby.

*All pictures should arrive at the center approximately 2-3 weeks later. You will receive an envelope of all pictures that were taken of your child. Simply return to us the ones you do not want to keep, and pay online or by check for the ones you are keeping. A price sheet will be included with each picture packet.

We are excited to offer another opportunity for you to obtain professional photos of your child. Please let us know if you have any further questions!

Important Dates

May 5: Summer Camp registrations are due

May 7: FARE Walk at Pittsburgh Zoo

May 12: Mother's Day Event
10am – 11am

May 15 & 16: Picture Days

May 29: Center Closed

May 30: K-Prep Graduation
3:30pm in 176A

May 31: Kindergarten Graduation,
3:30pm in 176A

Reasons to Celebrate

To end the month of April, we participated in several different activities to celebrate the Week of the Young Child! To see what fun took place, click on our website link below and select the Our Center tab to find our photo albums!

brighthorizons.com/cranberry

Bright Horizons at Cranberry

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

724.940.8324 | bhcranberry@brighthorizons.com

Monday-Friday 6:30am-6:00pm

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infants

Infant 2 talked about spring this month. For **Our World** lessons they went on walks to see all of the flowers and leaves on the trees in bloom! In **ArtSmart** they painted with flowers and the infants observed each flower and the different bright colors. With visual art, infants learn to use simple tools such as flowers to develop their small motor skills by exploring materials with varied textures, colors, and patterns.



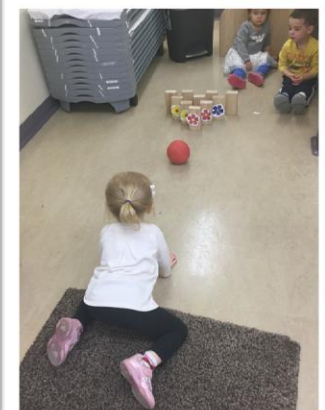
Toddlers

During the month of April, the Toddler 2 class spent some time learning about chicks and eggs. The toddlers had the chance to use their sensory exploration skills to investigate some plastic eggs, baskets, and fake grass in the sensory table. In **Science Rocks**, they learned to experiment with volume as they filled up some baskets with the grass and eggs. The toddlers were learning to compare containers as they figured out how many eggs they could fit into their baskets by filling and dumping them.



Twos

In the Month of April, Twos 1 had been learning all about spring. They learned how this season could be filled with lots of rain. In a **Science Rocks** lesson, the children learned to use their sense of touch to describe rain they had caught in a cup outside. In **Artsmart**, the children used their small muscle skills to create thumb print flowers. Their fun did not stop there, as they engaged in spring bowling. They knocked down flower blocks and used their counting skills in **Math Counts** as they counted how many blocks they knocked down. Twos 1 looks forward to what other fun lessons spring will bring them!



Preschool

In the month of April, Preschool 2 learned all about the 'Amazing Alphabet' during different **Language Works** lessons. In a **Well Aware** lesson they discussed healthy food options and letter sounds when cutting up fruit and discussing each food's beginning sounds as they made fruit salad. In a **Math Counts** lesson they sorted letters by size and color and played a fun letter game called, "Kaboom!" In the middle of the month, they became paleontologists exploring the world of dinosaurs! In **Science Rocks** they explored chemical reactions by creating volcanoes. They also got creative in an **ArtSmart** lesson using bubble wrap to create textured skin and scales on their awesome dinosaurs!



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Transition Tactics

Change is in the air and spring is finally here. Families are planning vacations and considering camps, and some children will be moving to new classrooms or even to a different school. Children (and many adults) thrive on predictability. The possibility of change often challenges children's sense of safety and security. Transitions are learning times that open doors to new opportunities. Below are tips to help children and parents transition to new experiences.

- **Be aware of your comfort level.** Children are active perceivers. They sense our concern and hesitation, read our every cue and react to adult unspoken emotions. If it's a new classroom, get to know the teachers and learn about the expectations and routines. Once you feel comfortable with the new situation, you will relay the message that this is a safe, fun place.
- **Give children information.** Talk about what is going to happen, where your child will be going, who will be going with them, and what will happen along the way. Be as informative as ages and stages allow. Explain what will be different, mention the fun activities they will be able to do in the new class, and equally important, discuss things that will remain the same.
- **Read books about similar experiences.** Maybe children will be going on an airplane, visiting relatives, enjoying a family vacation, moving to a new classroom, or going off to kindergarten. Reading stories about similar experiences are a dynamic way to familiarize children with upcoming new experiences.
- **Empower children by making them part of the process.** Children don't choose their class placement, but they can decide what color backpack to buy, help plan a new morning ritual, or draw pictures, bake cookies, or collect flowers for the new teachers.
- **Know your child, and realize that each child's response is different.** Children's reactions to transition depend upon their age, temperament and experience; some are cautious while others might embrace it with "Hello world, here I come."

Transitions are family affairs at Bright Horizons. Remember that becoming comfortable in new situations is an ongoing process, not just a single event. Please access the following *eFamily News* articles for more detailed information and support:

- www.brighthorizons.com/efam-transitions
- www.brighthorizons.com/movingtotoddlers

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Make a Teacher's Day!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member receives is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Each year Bright Horizons dedicates the month of May as a time to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make this such a wonderful place for children and families.

Our teachers, support staff, and leadership team work hard to make our center – and your child's experience here – the very best it can be. Help us celebrate them!

Your thoughts make a difference – and mean a lot to all of us. Take a moment to share any stories, comments, and well wishes for those who touch your family's life each day.

We invite you to visit our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website at appreciation.brighthorizons.com. Here, you can leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Connect with Bright Horizons!



The Family Room

On the blog, you'll find parenting tips, advice and tales of work/life challenges – the ordinary and not-so-ordinary moments in the journey of working parenthood.

blogs.brighthouse.com/familyroom



Facebook

On Bright Horizons' Facebook page, see our curriculum in action, learn about Bright Horizons news & events, and find the latest parenting tips and articles from our bloggers and education experts. *Search Facebook for your local center's Facebook page!*

www.facebook.com/brighthouse



Instagram

Connect with @BrightHorizons on Instagram to see some of our favorite photos of center activities, pictures shared with us by our families, as well as tips and advice from our education experts and parent bloggers.

www.instagram.com/brighthouse



Pinterest

On Bright Horizons' Pinterest page, you'll find a whole host of ideas including tips for organizing your home, fun and easy birthday celebration ideas, and activities for growing little learners.

www.pinterest.com/brighthouse



Twitter

Bright Horizons (@BrightHorizons) is the official Bright Horizons Family Solutions Twitter handle for company news & working parents/workplace trends.

Follow @BHParenting for parenting & early education news, and live-streams of our parent webinars.

twitter.com/brighthouse / twitter.com/BHParenting

Join us! Our next parent webinar, ***A Parent's Guide to STEM Education***, is taking place on Tuesday, April 25th. Our Social Media Team will be live-tweeting.

Use #BHParentWebinar to join the conversation!

