

Bright Horizons at Coral Springs News

From the Director

This time of year is when pressures on families to provide idyllic traditional events can be overwhelming and as a result make life disappointing. Here and now stop that happening to your family. If you have young children, and if you're reading this I bet you do, you can expect plans to be tried and sorely tested – so make simple plans that can easily be re-drafted. Large gatherings with many family members and children of all ages are the most demanding –attend with the expectation that you will need to pull out your child's favorite toy. For some that may be the iPhone or I pad but this should be only for very limited short pre-arranged periods. Children need help to learn how to behave and engage in social settings so better to set up a game of I Spy with a small group of children, or get outside and play simple ball games.

Stick to well-known routines when possible – for instance bed time and breakfast rituals. The Holidays are a project – anticipate, plan, implement, assess, revise and then enjoy it!

“I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending. “

Fred Rogers

Bright Horizons at Coral Springs

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M - F 7 am – 6 pm.

Important Dates

November

- 7-17 Food Drive for Food bank**
- 10 Friday No VPK class (regular school for 3 pm and full timers)**
- 13-17 Mon. - Fri. Thanksgiving Celebrations**
- 22 Wednesday No VPK class (regular school for 3 pm and full timers)**
- 23 & 24 Thursday & Friday School Closed for Thanksgiving**
- 27 Toy Drive Begins**

December

- 11+12 18+19 Monday + Tuesday Winter Shows**
- 25 Monday - School Closed Winter Holiday**
- 26, 27, 28, 29 T-W-TH-FR No VPK. Camp all Week (regular school for 3 pm and full timers)**

Reasons to Celebrate

At Bright Horizons at Coral Springs, we understand that helping your child develop a love of literature is important to their education and enjoyment of life.

Every quarter Bright Horizons produces its *Books of Excellence*, quality children's literature for different age groups, as part of the *Growing Readers* program.

We have extended the program into a lending library so you may borrow quality books to take home to enjoy with your child. Check it out in the front lobby!

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Toddler

The Early Years are all about learning the basic skills – self feeding is very empowering for toddlers. Meal times provide the opportunity to define food groups, discern favored tastes, be social and learn table manners and “conversation”



Young Preschool

Science is like magic to young children! Our young preschoolers are learning about absorption, The 2 figures in the children’s hands grew after being placed in water; the 2 on the paper towel are the controls. The children were detailing the differences and hypothesizing why and how the change happened. They expended their vocabulary by learning new words to describe something bigger – larger, taller wider!



Preschool

Letter recognition is an important step in pre writing development. This activity encourages the children to find the desired letter – “N” – and then to circle it. Working with a marker strengthens the muscles needed for a strong grip. Eventually a tripod grip will become more manageable.



Kindergarten Prep

After self-help, comes helping others. Here a student is using tongs to serve pineapple to his friends. The activity requires dexterity and hand-eye coordination to perform but the social learning is also highly valuable; a child demonstrating independent skills to his peers is very impressive and can inspire others to competence



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

What is Heuristic Play? Academic Fun Around the House

What do pinecones, scarves, seashells, rocks, sticks, napkin rings, keys, ribbon, fabric, plastic cups, jars and lids, cardboard tubes, spools, pots, pans, empty Kleenex boxes, measuring cups, and spoons have in common? These items often found in and around the house, provide countless heuristic play opportunities for fun and learning.

The word heuristic means to gain an understanding of something. When playing with everyday objects, children use their senses to learn about the world. Boxes, junk mail, or a cupboard full of pots and pans and plastic containers all invite heuristic play. Below are some additional suggestions:

Math

Younger children can match socks, sort flatware, count the people coming to dinner, and help set the table; older children might work with measurements and estimations. In the hands of older preschoolers, a measuring tape is a terrific tool to understand comparisons as children measure books, furniture, towels, the circumference of trees, etc. Families can make an “Estimation Station” by putting objects, such as corks, paper clips, stones, or buttons in a jar. Children can estimate the number of items in the jar and then count them.

Science

To young children, science is magic! Children study the properties of matter by playing with objects that sink and float in the bathtub; learn about chemistry when they make juice pops and watch the liquid freeze; or explore sound waves when they talk or hum into cardboard tubes. Children use simple machines when they turn on the faucet, use a salad spinner, or experiment with a doorstop.

Our homes are open-ended learning laboratories where academic fun abounds. In the hands of children, many of the materials in our homes foster math and science learning through observation, comparing, matching, sorting, classifying, organizing, counting, and, of course, something we are all familiar with- trial and error. Have fun!

Note: Avoid materials with sharp edges or those that might pose a choking hazard for children under age three.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Thanksgiving Activities for Families

Looking for something fun that the whole family can do together this Thanksgiving (besides all the eating, of course)? Whether you're in search of some ways to keep your little ones entertained before the main meal or hope to find some kid-friendly ways to keep the festivities going after you're finished feasting, this round-up offers some terrific ideas for all age groups.



Cook something together. Get the whole family involved in meal prep. Children as young as two can help scrub vegetables and pour and stir, while preschoolers can help break eggs and spread butters or toppings.

Share what you're thankful for. Have everyone in the family jot down what they're thankful for on printable leaf cutouts, which (as an added bonus) can also double as table decorations.

Host a scavenger hunt. Create a list of Turkey-Day themed items that can be found around your house and neighborhood and are easy enough for young children to find. This fun, easy game keeps children out of the kitchen during preparation and keeps them happy as they wait.

Create a new game. The holidays can be a great time to start a new tradition like putting together a game that everyone can enjoy. For example, you might quiz each other about Thanksgiving Day facts or make up a trivia game that includes questions about your family history.