

Bright Horizons at Cranbury News

Family Spotlight



The Stubbs Family

Our son Matthew (16 months old) is in the infant room at Bright Horizons. We have been a part of the Bright Horizons family since he was three months old. Matthew attended the Centra State Center until we transferred to Cranbury in August. Thank you to all the staff who helped us make such a smooth transition. Matthew loves coming to school!

Our family lives in Jackson right around the corner from Six Flags. As a family we enjoy traveling and seeing new places. One of our favorite places in New Jersey is The Historic Town of Smithville. We also enjoy going to the beach/boardwalk and visiting the sea animals at the Jenkinson's Aquarium. In August Matthew took his first plane ride to Texas to visit some family. While we were there we went to the Dallas Aquarium and the Dallas zoo. This summer Matthew's grandparents are taking us to Disney Land in Florida, SeaWorld, and on a cruise to the Eastern Caribbean!

Important Dates

November 1 – Toys for Tots Collection and Can Food Drive Begins (Canned food drive will benefit local families in need)

November 5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends (don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour)

November 8 – STEM Day (look for classroom activities that highlight our STEM curriculum)

November 10 – Veterans Day (look for classroom activities that honor our Veterans)

November 13 – World Kindness Day (look for classroom activities from our Caring Matters curriculum)

November 15 – America Recycles Day (classrooms will focus on our Toward a Better World curriculum and learn about recycling)

November 16 – Annual Thanksgiving Feast from 5:30-6:30 (more information to come)

November 17-21 – Thanksgiving Centerpiece Silent Auction (each classroom will make centerpieces for the parents to bid on)

November 20-22 – Parent Teacher Conferences (Please look for the sign-up sheet in your child's classroom)

November 21 – World Hello Day (The children will practice saying hello in different languages on this day)

November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving! School Closed

November 24 – School Closed

November 27– Yogurt Parfait Day (children will enjoy parfaits as a special afternoon snack)

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

Juliana N.	November 2 nd
Prathamesh T.	November 2 nd
Aryan A.	November 10 th
Arya R.	November 12 th
Aarav C.	November 14 th
Hailey V.	November 20 th
Avyukth Y.	November 21 st
Zavian M.	November 26 th

Bright Horizons at Cranbury

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Open Monday through Friday, 7am to 7pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infants

The younger infants in our program engage in daily supervised tummy time as part of our *Well Aware* curriculum. Tummy time occurs a few times a day for even a short period time so that the babies can strengthen their upper bodies. As babies get older, tummy time is increased. As the children engage in tummy time, the teachers interact with them and give them toys or books to explore. Infants learn to make intentional movements and begin to enjoy physical activity.



Toddlers and Twos

Our toddlers and twos explored leaves on our light table in the STEM Lab. While the children explored the leaves, the teacher helped them label their characteristics. The children learn to explore natural items, investigate the world through their senses, and increase vocabulary.



Young Preschool

The young preschoolers engaged in an *Art Smart* activity where they painted with feathers. The children were able to freely explore the feathers and test out different painting techniques. During a process art project like this, children learn the importance of self-expression and exploration without having to complete tasks with a “product” in mind. They also learn to use art materials and tools purposefully and creatively.



Kindergarten Prep and Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten Prep and Kindergarten children have been working with felt storyboards. The children specifically enjoy retelling *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with props. During this activity, the children learn to identify and recall parts of a story, accurately retell a story using words that closely match the text, and develop auditory memory skills such as recognizing a story's sequence of events.



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.