

Bright Horizons at Waltham News

From the Admin Team

Summer is here and we couldn't be any more excited! Below are some of the fun things we have planned for the summer:

- An Ice Cream Truck will be here on June 14th for a recruitment event. Feel free to stop by any time between 4pm-7pm to buy a Frozen Hoagie for you and your little ones. Invite your friends and family who are looking for a career in Early Childhood Education to join us!
- Our Summer Program begins on June 27th. Click [here](#) for the calendar!

Thank you!

We can't thank our families enough for all the kindness they showed throughout Teacher Appreciation Month in May. We enjoyed yummy treats all month, a delicious brunch provided by families, and even raised \$136 from flower sales to provide a special lunch for our staff on June 10th from Jimmy John's ☺

Important Dates

June 1st-3rd: Alice will attend the **Director's Conference** in Florida

June 14th: **Employee Recruitment Event**
4-7pm. Ice Cream Truck visit ☺

June 16th: **Kindergarten Prep Graduation** 4-5:30pm in the MMZ

Reasons to Celebrate

Birthdays

Christine 6/4
Charlie 6/5
Oliver 6/6
Colin 6/8
Liz 6/9
Marissa 6/9
Quino 6/9
Maria 6/10
Krishna 6/12
Josephine 6/18
Max 6/18
Ben 6/25

Anniversaries

Maya 2 years

Bright Horizons at Waltham

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M-F & 7a-6p



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

This past month **Infant 1** learned all about occupations like teachers, doctors, artists, scientists, fire-fighters, police officers, and more! They engaged in Dramatic Play by dressing up as some of these people and also took care of their plants and used fine motor skills to create unique creations like scientists and artists do! Friends in **Infant 2** explored edible sand made with white cornmeal and Kool-Aid! The children were encouraged to use all five of their senses to manipulate the sand in the sensory bin and as a class they discussed how the sand smelled, looked, sounded, and even tasted! **Infant 3** welcomed some new friends and introduced them to their new classroom and toys. They explored items in the sensory bin, as well as the playground like the grass, sunflowers, and even chalk. **Infant 4** has been so happy that the warmer weather is finally here and was able to get outside much more. Some of the activities they explored were coloring with chalk, standing at the ballet bars, water play, rides in the stroller and exploring the climbing structure on the Infant 1 & 2 playground. The climbing structure has multiple activities for the infants to explore. One of their favorites seems to be crawling up and down the ramp!



Toddler

Toddler 1 focused on exploring shapes and colors outside by using large colored decals and natural sunlight. They not only learned about color and natural light in this activity, but they increased their shape recognition skills and learned to categorize objects using descriptive language such as "red square" and "orange star." **Toddler 2** also worked on shape recognition by reading books such as "There's a Square: A Book about Squares" by Mary Serfozo and "The Shape Song Swing-Along" by Steve Songs. They work on identifying shapes and how many sides they may have by using crayons to trace each shape. **Toddler 3** focused on making *Healthy Choices*. They conducted a tasting of "good-for-you-foods" like apples, bananas, oranges, etc... They also addressed using their words when they need to express their feelings, which helps increase their vocabulary. **Toddler 4** learned about caterpillars and butterflies! They recently received caterpillars so they could watch how they turn into butterflies. They pretended to be butterflies and used their pointer fingers as antennas; they even created beautiful butterflies by adding different colors of paint to a piece of paper, folding it in half, rubbing it flat, and opening it to see their butterfly creations. **Toddler 5** has been into science and sensory projects. One of the most exciting ones was the Lava Lamp they created as a class. The children learned about the different types of liquids that don't mix. By using just a few ingredients the children watched as the water bubbles moved around the oil like a lava lamp!



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool

The month of May was jam packed with fun and learning Preschool! **Preschool 1** started off the month with a highly anticipated week of Music! The children got to learn about many different kinds of musical instruments, and practiced singing and signing the major scale. The children also really enjoyed listening to Beethoven, and painting how the music made them feel. **Preschool 2** learned a bit about the country of Peru after one of our teachers went there on vacation. They looked at photos and artifacts, but their favorite activity by far was making Peruvian fruit juice, which is quite often given as a "welcome drink" when you visit somewhere new in the country! They examined whole fruits and took time to smell and taste them. Then, they put the whole fruits in a blender and blended them all together. When they tasted it they noticed that the taste of all of the fruits together was new and quite yummy! The kids talked about it all day long!



Kindergarten Prep

The highlight in **Kindergarten Prep** was the Science Fair! This year the children voted and decided to do a study on Pond Life. They investigated different water samples that the children and teachers brought in. They looked at them and captured photos with a digital microscope and they discovered some living things the samples! The children tracked the progress of their growing lily-pad seeds and learned all about the life cycle of a frog! They even created our own Jell-O pond complete with frog eggs (tapioca pearls), lily-pads (Air Heads), and (gummy) frogs for a treat! The children put on their lab coats, frog life cycle headbands and explained all their hard work to everyone who visited the fair! *Thank you to everyone who attended and an extra big thank you to the Lau family who donated frogs, frog eggs, and the digital microscope for us to use and observe during the Science Fair!*



Art Studio

May was an exciting month in the **Art Studio**! The **Infant** students browsed through the book Art for Baby while looking at the black and white images created by eleven contemporary artists, including Takashi Murakami, Keith Haring, and Damien Hirst. The collection is comprised of simple images such as a duck, pear, human face, and smiling flower. For a hands-on Art Smart experience, the students explored laminated black and white basic geometric shapes and placed them onto black and white contact paper backgrounds. The **Toddler** students were introduced to the work of Pablo Picasso! They were particularly interested in his playful one-line drawings of animals. For their own creative adventure, the students took their knowledge of lines and used them to make their artwork in their own creative ways using markers. The **Preschoolers** were introduced to the work of British sculptor Anthony Gormley and his installation *Field*, which consists of about 35,000 small terra cotta figures. Inspired by these simple sculptures the students decided to create their own interpretation of the piece by exploring clay. The **Kindergarten Prep** students read about and explored the work of a French Impressionist Claude Monet! They took a closer look at several images of his paintings depicting a pond with waterlilies, Japanese bridge, and Monet's garden. Inspired by his work, the students decided to create their own ponds with Japanese bridges and waterlilies. Some students decided to paint, others used tissue paper, glue and wooden Popsicles sticks learning to thrust their instincts about the artistic choices they were making,



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. While 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.

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Early Education & Preschool

