

Bright Horizons OhioHealth Children's Center Newsletter

From the Director

A note from the director:

Happy Spring! I have been waiting to say that! We hope that you all enjoyed your pictures and were happy with your picture day experience. We were very happy with our choice to go with LifeTouch. We hope you were as well. We would love to hear your feedback as we begin to plan fall portraits!

April brings us Week of the Young Child. We have many exciting events planned in the lobby all this week. Please see what we will be doing to honor this national celebration of children. For more information on NAEYC or Week of the Young Child, we invite you to visit www.NAEYC.org. The wording in black is what NAEYC would have asked us to incorporate and the red is how we plan to celebrate. We will also have a Scholastic Book Fair this week in the MMZ. Come by and pick up a great book for bedtime!

Music Monday, April 24

Sing, dance, celebrate, and learn

We will have a poster in the lobby about Ways to Praise your children and will also have these available to take home as well. We will also have upbeat songs for the children to sing and dance to playing in the lobby.

Tasty Tuesday, April 25

Healthy eating and fitness at home and school

We plan to have yoga mats, yoga cards on display with the poses, a cube you roll and do what it lands on. We will also have a healthy snack to go- blueberries :)

Work Together Wednesday, April 26- CENTER OPEN HOUSE DAY

Work together, build together, learn together

We will place blocks, a car mat, architect books and legos out for the children to build a city or truly anything with you.

Artsy Thursday, April 27

Think, problem solve, create

We will pose a question of the day for you as families to answer. We will post the answer on the Friday update! We encourage you to talk to your children about the question of the day on the ride home. We will also have BH branded crayons and Anti Coloring pages, it is an actual book, for you to take home to create as well.

Family Friday, April 28

Celebrating and engaging families

We will have a 10 question paper for you to discuss with questions:

What color are my eyes?

What do you call me?

Who lives in our house?

Where do we live?

How old do you think I am?

What is our favorite thing to do together?

What is my favorite food?

What is your favorite food?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What do you want to do when we get home?

We wish you all a very happy spring!

Until next month,

Carrie

Important Dates

April 18th – KP2 Intergenerational Program

April 24th – 28th NAEYC Week of the Young Child and Scholastic Book Fair

April 26th – Open House and Client Meeting

Reasons to Celebrate

April 4th – Happy Anniversary, Emily M!

April 11th – Happy Anniversary, Kameron!

April 14th – Happy 3rd Anniversary, Sam!

April 18th – Happy Birthday, Khadija!

April 27th – Happy 2nd Anniversary, Lauren!

OhioHealth Children's Center

835 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH, 43214

614-566-4847 | ohiohealth@brighthorizons.com

M-F 6:00am-6:30pm

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

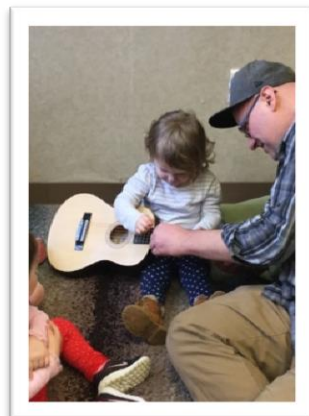
Infant

The Infant One classroom experimented with multi-colored foam in the sensory table. The infants manipulated objects such as whisks, spatulas and spoons to stir the mixture together. Intentionally grasping and manipulating objects such as these help infants to improve their hand/eye coordinator and fine motor control. Having activities such as this readily available in the sensory table fosters discovery and promotes a spirit of inquiry and curiosity in their environment.



Toddler

The children of Toddler One enjoy our bimonthly enrichment Music with Mr. Chuck. By strumming the guitar, shaking bells, and playing other instruments, children are engaged in the creative sounds they can make. Music with Mr. Chuck encourages toddlers to move in response to music and rhythm as Mr. Chuck rings a bell and asks, “Can you jump every time you hear this sound?” By dancing and fostering creative movement the children develop increased body coordination and balance.



Preschool

The children of Preschool Two explored their creativity as they engaged in a multi-step art activity. Each child took turns painting one wing of a butterfly and then folded it in half to see what the outcome would be. When they opened their butterfly back up, the children saw the effect of pushing down on their paper – it was a mirror image! By implementing activities such as this, teachers enhance cognitive development, support self-expression, and nurture the budding artist in each child.



Kindergarten Prep

The Kindergarten Prep One classroom recently finished their “Letter of the Week” study and is beginning an ongoing review of the alphabet. By identifying letters on the alphabet strip, the children are able to recall what sound the letter makes as well as write the letter for themselves. This writing activity helps the children learn to enhance their fine motor control by using different writing utensils such as pencils, markers and crayons. By doing these types of pre-writing and writing activities, the kindergarten prep students are learning to communicate through increasingly detailed writing every day.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Language Development in the Early Years

The first three years of life are marked by tremendous growth. A child's early language development, which includes not just speech, but nonverbal communication such as eye contact and gestures, is an almost miraculous accomplishment. Although each child is unique, language acquisition generally unfolds in a predictable sequence, as outlined below.

Average Language Milestones

According to the Mayo Clinic, most babies will smile when a parent appears, make cooing sounds, and respond to a voice by the end of **3 months** of age. At **6 months**, most infants make gurgling and babbling sounds, make eye contact in response to sounds, and respond to noises, such as music or toys.

By **12 months**, babies often try to imitate speech sounds and may say a few words, such as "dada," "mama," or "ball." One-year-olds can understand and respond to simple instructions and look in the direction of sounds. Between **12 and 18 months**, children begin to recognize the names for familiar people, animals, and objects. They may follow simple gestures or say between eight and 10 words. By the end of **24 months**, toddlers often say simple phrases, such as, "More milk." They can respond to simple requests and might say as many as 50 words.

Tips for Home

Every child acquires language at different rates, but the richer a child's "language environment" is, the more rapidly he or she will likely build language skills. Below are a few simple tips to create such an environment at home:

Respond to your child's questions. When your child points to an object, say the word while pointing at it too, e.g., "Squirrel, that's a squirrel." Be sure to ask open-ended questions to prompt communication, e.g., "Where do you think the squirrel is going?"

Use gestures or signs that your child can repeat. For example, tap your lips when you give your child a snack. He can use this gesture to let you know he's hungry. Gestures and sign language not only reduces a nonverbal child's frustration, but it can actually increase language acquisition. Talk with your young child about your daily life. "Let's get a snack and then we'll go for a walk."

Increase the length of your child's sentences. For example, your child points at the dog and says, "Dog out." You smile and nod, saying, "You're right. The dog wants to go outside."

Read, read, and read some more. One of the best ways to help children understand the patterns of language is through reading together. Read lovely picture books and lyrical poetry and rhymes.

Check with your pediatrician if your child seems to be acquiring language slowly, but try not to worry too much. As long as your child is attempting to communicate with you, whether through words, gestures, or eye contact, she is probably developing at the speed that's just right for her. Many children can understand much of what you say (receptive language) long before they can verbally respond.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

April is Open House Month!

Throughout April, Bright Horizons' around the country will be holding Open House Weeks for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Check in with your center director for exact dates and times.



Earth Day is April 22nd!

Earth Day is an important day set aside to inspire appreciation for and awareness of the earth's environment. As Earth Day approaches, your child may be involved in projects and activities that foster an awareness of and appreciation for the earth's resources. To extend the learning that takes place in your child's center or school and make caring for the earth part of your family culture, we encourage you to make time for some green activities this Earth Day.

- Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible instead of driving.
- Turn off lights, TVs, and other electronic equipment, when not in use.
- Turn off the water faucet after washing hands or while brushing teeth.
- Take a nature walk: Bring a magnifying glass, an insect and plant manual, and a sketch book. See how many plants, flowers, and bugs you can identify and draw.
- Recycle cardboard, paper, and plastics.
- Draw, paint, and write on recycled paper (and use recycled computer paper for your printer).

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