

Principal Child Development Center

July 2013



So You Say it's your Birthday?

Children's Birthdays

Landry turns 1...	July 3 rd
Avett turns 1...	July 5 th
Isla turns 4...	July 6 th
Jack turns 3...	July 6 th
Gavin W. turns 3...	July 7 th
Myles turns 1...	July 7 th
Whitney turns 2...	July 8 th
Jenna turns 2...	July 9 th
Mason turns 5...	July 16 th
Abby turns 5...	July 17 th
Landon turns 4...	July 20 th
Grant turns 5...	July 23 rd
Marisa turns 2...	July 24 th
Taylor R. turns 2...	July 25 th
Ainsley turns 2...	July 27 th
Addy O. turns 5...	July 30 th
Elora turns 1...	July 31 st

*Please remember that all birthday treats must be store bought and cannot contain peanut products.

Staff Birthdays

Alena (substitute)	July 3 rd
Laura (Little Lenders 1)	July 3 rd
Kim (Infant Investors 1&2)	July 12 th
Hannah (Senior Brokers 1&2)	July 27 th

Reminder...

The center will not be washing any water play items this summer, such as swimwear and towels. Please remember to take these items home with you each week.

Thank you...

Tiny Trader families for providing the food for our teacher appreciation breakfast!

Everyone who attended the CPR for Families training in June! We had an amazing turnout, and hope to offer this again in the near future!

Dates to Remember

July 4th: Center closed!

July 9th: Family Partnership Group call 12:30

July 9th: Inside-out day!

July 18th: Little Lender families bring in flowers for teacher appreciation

July 31st: Neon day!

Senior Broker Families...

If your child is leaving our program for kindergarten this fall, please remember that we require a 30 day written notice of when their last day will be.

Child Transitions

Due to high enrollment this summer, no children will transition in the month of July. We will resume our transition schedule in August. As always, if you have questions about when your child will transition to the next room, please ask a member of management.

Connect with Bright Horizons



Classroom Spotlight

Senior Brokers I



Teachers: Kamie, Jessica, and Hannah

Classroom Favorites:

Books: Don't Let the Pigeon Stay up Late (and other books by Mo Willems), If You Give a Cat a Cupcake (and other books by Laura Numeroff), Clifford Goes To Dog School (and other books from the Clifford series).

Songs: Dance Like You've Got Ants in Your Pants, You've Got a Friend in Me, Upside Down

Games: Hot Potato, Number/Letter Hunt, Sharks and Sailors

Learning materials: Take Apart Station, Woodworking Station, Balancing Scale, Dramatic Play Area, Art Center Materials (construction paper, glue, scissors, paper plates, yarn, cotton balls, etc.)

What's new?

Recently, we explored the author Laura Numeroff in a variety of different activities that integrated Math Counts, Language Works, and Art Smart. We explored the concept of Data and Chance, and Numbers and Operations by creating two graphs. The first graph was used to determine which kind of muffin was the class favorite. We created a pictograph where the children were able to represent their vote using their picture, and determine which book had the most and the least amount of votes by looking at the graph. The second graph was used to determine which "If You Give A...." book was the class favorite. The children practiced their Pre-writing skills by writing their name to represent their vote. We used the graph to determine which book had the most and the least amount of votes.

Then, we explored the concept of Pre-Writing and Writing by recording our votes in our Daily Work Journals, and drawing a picture to represent our idea. By engaging in meaningful writing projects, we are practicing our correct letter formation skills and also encouraging early invented spelling.

Finally, we explored the concept of Pre-Reading and Reading by reading the story, If You Give a Moose a Muffin, and using story sequence cards to demonstrate our comprehension skills. We used the story sequence cards to help us remember the important events that took place in the story, and we worked together as a class to place them in the correct order.

Family Connection:

With summer camp in full swing it would be very helpful to go over summer safety with your child! Go over things such as stranger danger, never leaving the group, what to do at a cross walk, etc.

What's coming up?

This month we will be exploring the concepts of: Music and Dance, Fun and Fitness, Around the World, The Great Big Outdoors, and Science Rocks. We look forward to exploring our gross-motor skills by participating in Jump Bunch, Yoga, and Zumbatonic. We also look forward to exploring the Musical Arts by participating in Kids in Harmony. We also plan on exploring Science Rocks by enjoying in a visit from the Mad Scientist and taking a field trip to The Science Center of Iowa on Tuesday, July 30th.



Sloane writes about her favorite Laura Numeroff book, "If You Give A Moose A Muffin", in her work journal.



As a class we explore the concept of data and chance by making a graph of our favorite Laura Numeroff book.



Brennan votes on his favorite kind of muffin (inspired by the book "If You Give A Moose a Muffin") in our graphing station.

READY for SCHOOL



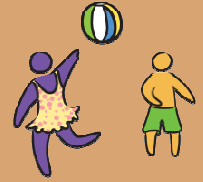
READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Scientific Thought in Children

Young children develop the skills necessary for scientific thought while making observations about their world, analyzing and organizing those thoughts, and testing the hypotheses they develop. They use their current knowledge to help understand new ideas and concepts that are presented. By carefully observing children and listening to their explanations of the world, adults gain insight into their thought processes. For example, after a heavy rain, children may begin to notice water running down a hill. A child may comment that the running water makes a river. Through conversations and real explorations with sand, water and dirt, children learn firsthand about the properties of flowing water. When shovels and other digging tools are added, children may begin to excavate their own rivers. This process may take several days while the children add water when rain is not available and dig several paths for the water to follow.

In the early education center, teachers support this sort of exploration by providing time for exploration and carefully observing the children as they explore the environment. As children develop concepts, teachers may add tools and materials, in this case shovels and buckets, that support the children's explorations. Later, during a group discussion, the teacher may ask the children about their play and add ideas to the children's explanations. This is an opportunity for the teacher to introduce additional vocabulary words like "erosion" and discuss higher level concepts like the "water cycle." Additional activities may include designing and building rivers of differing grades of steepness, width, and length. Measuring amounts of collected rain in the next storm could provide data for a graph and making comparisons.

At home, parents can encourage this kind of activity by offering opportunities for children to examine their world indoors and out. As children have more experiences with the natural world, they develop an appreciation and curiosity for nature. Help children notice subtle changes in the environment by talking about where shadows fall on the ground at certain times of day, how slowly or quickly the snow is melting, the changes noticed in leaves over time, or what happens when we forget to water house plants. Purchase a small notebook that can become your child's "Science Journal." Encourage him or her to record observations of natural events in the journal by drawing pictures, writing with invented spelling, or copying words with help from you to document his/her observations. Helping children track these changes over time helps them develop a sense of time, space and the natural cycle of life, all important school readiness skills.

Family Summer Activities



Contributed by Rachel Robertson, Director of Education & Development at Bright Horizons, as featured on [SheKnows Parenting](#).

Six ways to create a fun-filled summer full of learning:

The summer is a fantastic time to teach kids *how* to learn, including skills that build perseverance, how to take initiative and the importance of having a curious, inquisitive mind. Whether you are headed to the store, the playground or the beach, the summer provides endless learning opportunities and teachable moments for parents and children.

1. **Cook up a learning opportunity**—Cooking with your children can prove to be a wonderful way for them to learn not only about some of your favorite recipes, but critical skills pertaining to science and math. When cooking with your little ones, try not to focus on the outcome but the process that gets you there.
2. **Back to the basics**—The local library can be a cost-effective and fun summer activity for children of all ages. Not only will it allow them to grow their love of reading and find books on topics they are interested in, but the library often holds readings and events that your children might enjoy attending. For older children, the library could offer volunteer opportunities that might enable them to meet other people their age.
3. **Use the news**—Newspapers and magazines, whether online or print, can help your child understand what's going on in the world and also create some great dialogue. For older children, you might ask them about their favorite article of the day and their perspective, which will encourage them to tap a wider range of emotions and facts.
4. **Extending learning to the playground**—The link between physical activity and learning is strong, since children learn by doing and being actively engaged. Not only does physical activity promote physical development, it also supports cognitive, social and emotional development. *(For more ideas to extend learning outdoors, check out our [Summer Gardening Tips](#) featured on SheKnows Parenting.)*
5. **Summer getaways**—You don't always have to travel very far for a fun and fulfilling summer vacation with the family. Draw a circumference around your town — research different vacation venues and let your child explore different activities in the area. If your family already has a long-distance vacation planned, help your child to learn more about the area by reading online articles and books about its history, people, culture and cuisine.
6. **Exploring is key**—Ask your child something he wants to learn about and embrace it. It could be something about dinosaurs, space, social studies, your hometown, his school, journaling, language development, etc. Talk with him about this topic. Go to the library and find books about it. Let him ask questions. It's not always about giving children answers; it's about letting them explore.