

Bright Horizons OhioHealth Children's Center News

From the Director

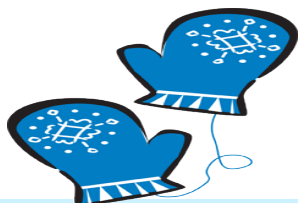
Happy New Year!

I hope you enjoyed a great New Year celebration! As we begin 2017 I would like to highlight all that will come this month. We begin by expanding our preschool I classroom and will welcome many new families to the center. We look forward to seeing all the children transition to new rooms and settle into new routines.

2016 brought many highlights and we look forward to building on those in 2017. We will look for new adventures while continuing our quality programming. We will partner with Gladden House for our Bright Space and will continue to seek opportunities to give back to the Bright Space program. The Hat and Mitten drive was such a success and to see how many hats and gloves we collected was heartwarming.

Parent survey time is happening in January! We hope you take this time to reflect on what is going well and also what we can do to enhance your experience. We will send you the link once it is live.

My door is always open if you have any questions or concerns. I wish you all the best 2017 has to bring.



Important Dates

January 2nd- Center Closed. Happy New Year!

January 2nd- Parent Survey goes live!

January 31st- Parent Webinar: *The Essentials of Learning Through Play*

Reasons to Celebrate

January 5th- Happy Birthday Tara!

January 6th- Happy Birthday Carol!

January 13th- Happy Birthday Leeann!

January 22nd- Happy 3 Year Anniversary Sadia!

January 25th- Happy Birthday Emily!

January 26th- Happy Birthday Rachel!

OhioHealth Children's Center

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



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

From their very first cry, infants are born to communicate. They are learning the framework for the use of language through everyday activities. One part of **Language Works** for infants is early literacy. Infants do this by exploring picture books and turning the pages, as well as hearing the words read by a teacher. Singing songs and dancing to music are also enjoyed daily.

They also explore the world around them using all their senses. Everything is a new experience for our infants and they take joy in making sense of their daily experiences.



Toddler

Toddlers are exploring **Science Rocks** in the New Year. Science Rocks helps children identify verbally and explore possible solutions before attempting to solve a problem. We will be doing fun activities such as, volcanoes, mixing colors, and playing in the snow.

As new friends transition we will highlight **Caring Matters** and **Our World** as they learn to build friendships with their peers, as well. We will promote budding friendships with new friends and help support the feelings of each friend.



Preschool

Preschool will work to strengthen their fine motor skills in preparation for writing. Activities such as, using a zipper, buttoning buttons, threading while beading, and using tongs to sort items are essential to this development.

They also will continue to learn about letters and explore new ones each week. **Language Works** curriculum is weaved throughout the classroom activities. Their vocabulary is blossoming and we continue to nurture and challenge their language development.

Don't forget to stock your child's cubby with weather appropriate clothes and outerwear. Our children are always curious about the colder weather and snow, and it presents a great opportunity for **Science Rocks** exploration!



Kindergarten Prep

We are taking advantage of our MMZ times with the weather outside is frightful! We explore Movement Matters in the MMZ, but also allow time for it in the classroom. We practice yoga (bending our bodies into different letter shapes!), wiggle our sillies out, and “jump” with Mr. Chuck. Making an effort to take part in physical activities each day helps us enjoy it and allow it to become part our routine.

Language Works activities are still implemented throughout the day. We write in our journals, practice new sight words and attempt early inventive spelling.

Our Kprep children's minds are continually working as they progressively ask complex questions and hypothesis about the outcome. KWL charts are a great tool to foster this learning. Instead of simply participating in a series of unrelated activities, they explore in-depth opportunities that build on prior knowledge and lead to new revelations.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Outdoor Winter Play

January. For many of us, it's a dreaded month, the beginning of several weeks of cold temperatures and dark days. We're naturally inclined to stay inside when the temperature outdoors dips, yet children's need for active play doesn't change. Have you ever wondered how teachers accommodate children's needs for movement during the winter months? Below, we provide some insight into outdoor play in an early childhood setting and offer some tips for home, as well.

Cultural expectations about cold weather vary from region to region, and even around the world. In Scandinavia, for example, children and adults bundle up and go outdoors almost every day, believing that this practice builds resilience and good health. A common Scandinavian expression says, "There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing." Knowing this can broaden our view of the possibilities for outdoor play. It's also valuable to remember that while as adults, we may feel miserable in cold weather, children often find the experience joyful and invigorating.

Teachers are encouraged to take children outdoors for at least a few minutes, several times each day, although each center has its own policies and practice. According to *Caring for Our Children the National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, "toddlers (twelve months to three years) and preschoolers (three to six years) should be allowed sixty to ninety total minutes of outdoor play. These outdoor times can be curtailed somewhat during adverse weather conditions in which children may still play safely outdoors for shorter periods, but should increase the time of indoor activity, so the total amount of exercise should remain the same." (*Caring for Our Children*, 3rd edition)

Teachers understand the value of outdoor time, but are also prepared for indoor movement activities in inclement weather. In cold weather, they may take children for a brisk walk or play a game outdoors. Indoors, they may, depending on the space available, offer balls, scooters, balance beams or other movement equipment. Dancing and indoor games can provide opportunities for physical activity.

Parents can support outdoor play. Teachers sometimes worry about taking children outdoors in cold weather. Parents can offer encouragement and work with teachers to ensure children have warm, waterproof outerwear. In some classrooms, for example, parents and teachers gather a stockpile of warm clothes to be kept at the center for any child to wear. Send in outerwear your child has outgrown to add to this stockpile. At home, parents can encourage the habit of getting outdoors. Take a brisk walk, build a snowman, or watch for changes in nature.

For more outdoor winter ideas, visit [Penn State College Extension](#).

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



The Essentials of Learning Through Play

January 31, 2017 at 2:00 PM ET

What might look like play to an adult is actually learning to a child. During our upcoming parent webinar, *The Essentials of Learning Through Play*, we'll explore:

- Different types of play
- What children can learn from each type
- How these opportunities might differ depending on age
- Activities and games that will help your child continue to learn at home during play time.

Register Today: [The Essentials of Learning Through Play](#)

Parent Survey Coming Out This Month

Each year, Bright Horizons full-service centers and schools distribute a Parent Satisfaction Survey. This is your opportunity to let us know if we are continuing to meet the needs of our families.

The annual survey will be available January 2-30 2017, and will be sent out via email.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Its purpose is to gauge our families' satisfaction and opinions on a variety of topics. Your responses directly benefit your center and provide us with feedback on how we can better serve you.

Please feel free to talk with your director about any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance!



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