

Bright Horizons at Georgetown, DC

Outdoor Experiences

Location Details

- We go for buggy rides and the older children go for walks along the Washington Harbor!
- We utilize two areas outdoors that allow the children to explore their world.
 - The main area to utilize we refer to as “the circle” for its distinct shape in the ground. It is also known as “the Labyrinth” along the Rock Creek Park trail.



- This area is about two blocks down, right past the Flour Mill building off of Water Street and 33rd Street NW. The area is far enough away from the water and the road and the children utilize this area for their gross motor activities.
- We have blankets, books, balls and a variety of outdoor equipment to be used, in addition to structured activities that the teachers plan.
- In the summer, we also utilize the Fountain areas!
 - The fountains are just across the street from our center, on Wisconsin and Water Street.



Safety Policies and Procedures

Outdoor Play:

- We cross the street at Wisconsin and Water Street and walk the paths of the Harbor down to the Circle, or nearby shady grassy areas. We always have one staff at the front and one at the back.
- Upon arrival outside we survey the area before playing.
- We bring out water coolers, cups, play equipment, blankets, books etc.
- We do head counts and roll call using the transition tracking sheets every 15 minutes.
- We bring out walkie-talkies to communicate and do walkie checks frequently.
- We bring out our Ready to Respond backpacks that include a first aid kit, the children's emergency contact information, and occurrence reports.
- We practice Through the Door processes frequently.
- We use the donut ropes to guide the children in staying with the group.
- We engage the children in outdoor safety practices and review outdoor procedures with the children often.
- We review outdoor safety on a continuous basis.

Water Play:

- We strategically selected the morning time- 10:00am- for our scheduled water play after careful observation of the public use of the fountain. We observed that there are fewer children at the fountain in the mornings than in the afternoon; however we are not restricted to just the morning times. We will be utilizing the fountains in the afternoon when weather permits and there us fewer usage of the fountains.
- We request that on water play days that parents send their children in ready for outdoor play in water! This means water attire and shoes, sunscreen already applied, hats, etc.
- We ensure that children are dry and fully clothed before resuming regular activities.
- The parents have purchased bright yellow water play shirts for all of the children! This makes them easily identifiable when there are other children outside.
- We supervise by sight and sound when at the fountains, spreading out strategically, with at least one staff stationed between the harbor and the fountains, and another staff stationed between the street and the fountains.

