

USAA Child Development Center News

From the Director

Yay, September is here which means the kick off to fall, an exciting school year and tons of learning! We also have our Curriculum Night planned for September 13th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to talk with teachers and other parents and see what great things your child(ren) will be learning this year. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you there!

Here are a few things our friends are looking forward to learning about this year:

“Lions” “Tigers” “Elephants”
“Penguins” “Giraffes”
“Alligators” “Real Animals” “Space”
“Tigers, because they give me a kiss”
“Sharks” “Writing” “Ponies”
“I want to learn about art”
“I want to learn about Denver”

Reminders:

- Please let us know if your child is sick or absent from school for some reason. You can send an email or call the school.
- Please make sure you provide extra clothes that are weather appropriate and jackets as the weather starts to get cooler.

Important Dates

9/3:	Center is closed Happy Labor Day!
9/7:	Grandparents Day Tea 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (Gym)
9/13:	Curriculum Night 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
9/23:	First day of Autumn

Every Thursday is Jersey Day!

Reasons to Celebrate

9/1:	Audrey turns 3!
9/4:	Trevor turns 4!
9/6:	Kaylee turns 4!
9/9:	Reagan turns 3!
9/17:	Henry turns 4!
9/19:	Olivia turns 1!
9/19:	Callan turns 4!

USAA Child Development Center

1855 Telstar Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

719-533-8280 | usaaco@brighthorizons.com

Monday-Friday & 6:30 am – 6:30 pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

The *Science Rocks* curriculum helps infants begin the process of discovery. Benton has figured out how to push the buttons on side of the pop up toy. After making all the animals pop up he works to push them back down. When the infants actively explore classroom toys and materials, **they learn to** manipulate objects. **They learn it by** using safe toys and materials with varied textures, activities, and sounds.



Toddler

The *Language Works* curriculum guides the road to literacy, fostering a love of books through stories read aloud, expanding speaking and understanding. During open center play, Olivia found her favorite book. She read the book “aloud” to herself and those around her; sharing what was happening on each page. When the toddlers begin to pre-read, **they learn to** increase short-term memory and recall. **They learn it by** participating in read-aloud time or retelling favorite stories to ourselves or to our friends.



Transition

The *ArtSmart* curriculum ensures that children are introduced to the visual arts, music, dance/creative movement, and drama. During open center play, Kainan and Elliah painted with sponges on different surfaces. They used their sponge to mix the paint together on their surfaces. When the transition children participate in visual art activities, **they learn to** experiment with and explore color and make deliberate markings or drawings. **They learn it by** expressing creativity in their own way without teacher direction and using developmentally appropriate art materials.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool B

The *Language Works* curriculum offers a comprehensive approach that thoughtfully and intentionally addresses all aspects of language and literacy. During open center play, Ella and Avalynne painted at the easel. Ella said, "I'm drawing the people in my family. See?" When the preschoolers participate in pre-writing activities, **they learn to** draw pictures with more detail and make purposeful marks and letters. **They learn it by** making circular, angular, curved or looped marks.



Kindergarten Prep

The *Math Counts* curriculum ensures that children develop the mathematical fluency necessary for kindergarten readiness. Aiden, Hadley, and Callan shared the magna-tiles. They each created their own structures. Hadley said, "I made a house for my animals to live in. The door can open up and they go in there," as she lifted a triangle off the top of the structure. When the Kindergarten-Prep children participate in geometry activities, they learn to understand properties of specific shapes. They learn it by building a structure with various shapes of blocks.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Cooking - A Family Affair

Gathering in kitchens nourishes our bodies, minds, and souls. Preparing meals together as a family enhances relationships, invites contribution, and helps children understand basic cooking principles. Also, children develop patience as they discover that delicious food doesn't just magically appear. Although cooking as a family affair is probably not as easy as adults whipping up a quick dinner, with a bit of forethought, more cooks stirring a pot can be fun and has tremendous benefits for everyone involved.

Cooking with children helps them learn about nutrition and hone basic reading, math, and science concepts. Reading recipes and learning kitchen vocabulary expands literacy skills, while counting, measuring, and fractions, foster mathematical thinking. Young chefs learn about chemistry and the physical properties of matter as they mix ingredients and watch them combine, separate, expand, change color, develop scents, and change form.

Research shows that children who help in the kitchen develop healthy eating habits because they tend to eat what they prepare. Below are a few suggestions for toddlers and preschoolers.

Toddlers

Choose simple cooking tasks that match your toddler's skills and attention span.

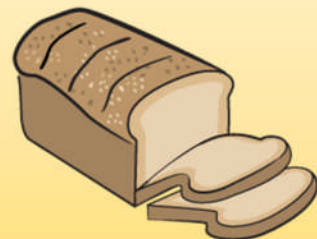
- Wash fruit and vegetables.
- Measure, pour, mix, and stir ingredients.
- Put ingredients in a crockpot or blender.
- Mash potatoes.



Preschoolers

Discuss nutrition and why our bodies and minds need the right kind of fuel to work correctly.

- Help plan meals.
- Chop, grate, peel, and cut ingredients.
- Shuck corn.
- Crack eggs.
- Count and categorize ingredients (wet and dry items).



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learn about the year ahead at Curriculum Night



Ask about our upcoming Curriculum Night event!

Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 4:30pm-6:00pm

During Curriculum Night, you will learn what we have planned for the year ahead for our center's curriculum as well as community center events. Spend time in your child's classroom, ask about the curriculum for their age group, and ask their teacher about future project plans. This event can also be a great time to connect with fellow Bright Horizons families!

Learn about our Bright Horizons educator promises. As Bright Horizons Educators, we promise to...

Nurture and care for the whole child

Craft curriculum based on expert research

Support and develop teachers

Implement an emergent and integrated approach to learning

Cultivate curiosity through projects, exploration, and play

Encourage children to be confident experimenters and problem solvers

Build an inclusive and respectful community

Create joyful places for childhood



Check out all the places you can connect with us!