



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Little Hands

Bake Sale

The Better Together Committee is a program Bright Horizons has developed to help each center focus on creating a great place to work. Thank you for helping make the committee's bake sale a success! We raised \$550 in total. A portion of the donations help fund our Bright Space at Maryville Academy.



Garden Tower

Our Garden Tower is continuing to be a success. The classrooms have been harvesting and we are excited to have cucumbers and hope to have cherry tomatoes coming soon!



Important Dates

- March 5- Natalie's 1 Year Anniversary (Infant Teacher)
- March 7- Lily's Birthday (Mandarin Teacher)
- March 8- Lily's 8 Year Anniversary (Mandarin Teacher)
- March 8- Kristen's Birthday (Kindergarten Teacher)
- March 10- Sophie's Birthday (Two's Teacher)
- March 16-20- Open House (See Page 4)
- March 18- Jackie's 15 Year Anniversary (Two's Teacher)
- March 18-22- Health and Safety Week
- March 20- April's Birthday (Preschool Teacher)
- March 25-29- School Age Days

Mobile Therapy Centers

Little Hands Child Development Center and Mobile Therapy Centers of America (MTC) are in their ninth year of collaboration to bring early detection and appropriate intervention to children and families. MTC is a private practice based in Libertyville however their licensed and credentialed therapists travel to our center to provide developmental screenings, evaluations and therapy services. Our staff collaborates with the MTC team on a regular basis and receives specialized resources in the areas of speech, language, motor and social emotional development. If you have any questions regarding MTC's services, feel free to contact:

Nicole Brachfeld M.A. CCC-SLP/L
nbrachfeld@mtcus.com or visit their website at

www.mtcus.com

HAPPY 22ND BIRTHDAY LITTLE HANDS

During the week of February 11th we celebrated Little Hands 22nd Birthday! On Monday, each classroom received party supplies to help them celebrate such as bubbles and party hats. Below are highlights from the classroom's birthday parties for Little Hands!



INFANT MESSY ART CHALLENGE

Throughout the month of February the infant classrooms participated in a Messy Art Challenge! The teachers showed creative and flexible thinking when developing open-ended messy art projects. Some children were comfortable putting their whole bodies in paint while other children preferred to explore with their fingers and hands.

THE WINNER OF THE MESSY ART CHALLENGE IS INFANT 3!!
Congratulations to Ms. Jessica, Ms. Natalie and their children!



Embarrassing Moments: Opportunities to Learn

There are times when our bright, curious children cause us to cringe by their comments or questions. “Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?” “Why is her skin dark?” “Where are his legs?”

In these moments, we often feel embarrassed and helpless. Our sweet young children, who we raise in an atmosphere of respect, acceptance, and kindness, might innocently offend someone ...and we’re speechless.

Young children are curious and still learning about the world; they don’t mean to be hurtful or malicious. Many adults are inclined to explain and have children apologize, but this can embarrass both the children and the recipient. In this situation, it’s best to validate what a child is observing and turn it into a learning opportunity.

Below are a few examples of common questions and helpful responses.

“That man has no legs!”

- ▶ Calmly and matter-of-factly explain that we all have different bodies and abilities. Then when your child asks, “Why doesn’t he have legs?” You might say, “I’m not sure, perhaps he was born that way.” Then you might ask, “How do you think someone would get around if they didn’t have legs?”

“Why is her skin dark?”

- ▶ This is an opportunity to explain that everyone is unique and to talk about different types and colors of hair skin and eyes. When you get home, you might show your children an array of colored apples and cut them open to see that they’re all the same color inside.

“Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?”

- ▶ A simple, honest response is, “Men can’t have babies in their tummies. Only women can.” A child further inquiring, “then why is he so fat?” opens the door for adults to let children know that people come in all sizes and shapes; we all have different body types.

How adults handle situations in the moment matters, but equally important is turning these moments into learning opportunities. After the event, explain to your child that sometimes things we say can unintentionally hurt people’s feelings.

Use your child’s comment as a springboard to discuss diversity, emotions, and the impact of words. Explain that all questions are welcome, but it’s a good idea to check with the adults before commenting to strangers.

You're invited to Our Open House!

April 16 – 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Next month, we will be hosting an Open House Week where new families will be able to discover why Bright Horizons is the perfect place for children to learn, explore, and grow!

Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you.

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. Please see your Center Director for details. We hope to see everyone at Open House Week!

About this Podcast



The Work-Life Equation

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Listen and subscribe to the Bright Horizons Work-Life Equation for information on parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life.

Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

Teach. Play. Love. Parenting Advice for the Early Years

Technology is everywhere. As adults, we rely on it constantly. And for kids, it provides great value, as long as it's used in the "right" way. But what does that mean, exactly?

Debbie Hoppy, curriculum director at Bright Horizons, and Rachel Robertson, VP of education and development, share what really matters: interactive experiences and co-exploration, questions that encourage deeper thinking, and opportunities for integrating technology into the real world.

Ep. 1: The Digital Dilemma

brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep1

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2755 Sanders Rd., Northbrook, IL, 60062

847-326-9500 | all@brighthorizons.com

Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

