

Bright Horizons at USAA Child Development Center News

From the Director

Some early childhood programs seem to build their curriculum around holidays, just going from one to the other on the calendar. We don't take that approach, but we do like to celebrate!

We love to honor the traditions of all the children and families within our program. We believe in the importance of family traditions and holidays in strengthening the connection between home and school. We plan activities to reflect the diverse cultures of our group and to foster respect for their cultures.

We invite each of you as families to join us in our celebrations. Volunteer in your child's class and share the various traditions that you may have. Even if you cannot be with us, please share your family traditions, music, recipes for foods, and any special items that may reflect your heritage and family history.

Important Dates

Fall Family Feast	November 16
Thanksgiving	November 22 CLOSED

Reasons to Celebrate

Bailey D.	1 st
Arya D.	11 th
James R.	14 th
Sawyer S.	17 th
Cameron M	21 st
Lorelai H.	22 nd
Cameron H.	23 rd
Alejandra D.	26 th
Adrienne M.	28 th
Astoria H.	30 th

Bright Horizons at USAA Child Development Center

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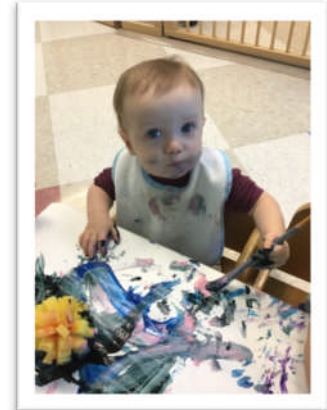
Monday-Friday 6:30 am-6:30 pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

An infant's first year is full of wondrous achievements. Babies are working diligently to expand their physical abilities, to discover the world around them, to build secure and healthy relationships. With Well Aware, teacher's guide infants in a developmentally appropriate environment that encourages safe exploration. Cameron learns to develop awareness of his body and bodily powers as he uses a brush and some paint. He holds the paintbrush and moves his hand back and forth as he paints.



Toddler

Children are born with a strong sense of curiosity about how things work and an innate desire to make sense of the world. Toddlers display scientific behavior throughout their days, from stomping in puddles, to investigating a sandbox, to intently watching a butterfly in flight. Our curriculum nurtures and builds on these natural instincts. Bryson, Benjamin, and Ayyah are actively exploring the sensory table. They are exploring the different size pumpkins in the sensory bin as they watch to see if they sink or float.



Preschool

Mathematical concepts surround and fascinate children at this age. Whether they are counting how many marbles they have, comparing their shoe size on a graph, or fitting a cylinder into a circular hole, preschoolers are constantly using and experimenting with mathematical ideas. Sage and Sophie are working together to see how many leaves tall Sage is. They are learning to use nonstandard units of measurement, as they measure each other's height.



Kindergarten Prep

Language Works provides a framework for meaningful classroom experiences to ensure children aren't merely memorizing letters and imitating words but instead gaining a deep understanding of language and communication. The *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum is a supplemental curriculum that is used within the classroom. Kobe used the wooden pieces; 1 long piece and 3 short pieces, to create the letter E. Once he completed the letter, Kobe then practiced writing the letter E on paper drawing one long line and 3 short ones.



EDUCATION NEWS

Learning a New Language: A Family Activity that Lasts a Lifetime

Our country is a beautiful melting pot of people from all over the world. As we know, there are many different languages spoken on earth. Being able to talk to each other is an essential path to build bridges. Also, having the ability to communicate with people who speak a different language encourages cross-cultural understandings, which opens the door to new friendships. Think about how welcome someone feels when your family smiles and says hello in their native language. Have you ever considered learning a foreign language along with your child?

Research shows that exposing young children to different languages taps into their innate ability to distinguish sounds, which enhances their growing cognitive skills. Because young children generally learn a new language more quickly than adults, your child might take the lead. There are many language learning opportunities online, from interactive exercises that teach language to watching YouTube videos. Some are even free, while others require purchasing a program. Two recommended websites:

Duolingo

www.duolingo.com offers interactive lessons in Spanish, French, Italian, German and Portuguese.

Mamma Lisa's World of Children and International Culture

www.mamalisa.com offers poems, songs, rhymes and traditions from around the world, in over 57 languages.

As you begin learning a language together, you might delve into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken, pick up children's books in that language or prepare a traditional recipe from that country.

Everything we do as a family builds a stronger, more caring, cohesive unit. Practicing a new language broadens our view of the world. It's fun and can be done anywhere: while taking walks, commuting, playing a game, listening to music, dancing, dining, reading bilingual books, and watching a movie.



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Thanksgiving Prep - Tips for Involving Kids



- 1) Make the cranberry sauce with the kids the weekend before Thanksgiving. It will keep and it allows you to include the children in the cooking process.
- 2) Have the kids make place cards together. Give them index cards, markers, crayons and stickers. Older children can write the names, inventive spelling and all, while younger children can decorate with stickers.
- 3) Try to find the easiest Thanksgiving worthy appetizers you can that the children can help prep by counting crackers, opening jars, and arranging plates.
- 4) Ask them to be taste testers and enjoy your Thanksgiving meal!

Podcasts for Parents on the Go

Did you know that Bright Horizons has a podcast? Navigate your parenting journey with our podcast series created with working parents in mind.

Tune into our podcast, ***The Work-Life Equation***, to hear about parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life. Whether you're a working or stay-at-home parent, you're likely always on-the-go. But throughout the daily hustle and bustle, you have questions, concerns, and simply need support.

Our parenting and education experts are here to help you navigate the parenting journey with an "on-the go" podcast you can listen to when convenient for you.

Browse our episode selection at brighthorizons.com/family-resources/podcasts



Check out all the places you can connect with us!