

# Bright Horizons at Landmark News

## From the Director

Dear Landmark Families and Faculty,

Welcome to all the new families and staff that joined us this month. I hope everyone had a seamless transition to the center and met some other families in the classrooms.

Thank you for your feedback at our recent Parent Partnership Meeting – “Tea with Winnie”. We value your feedback and will follow up on several of your concerns over the next couple of days. I strive to build honest and strong partnerships with each family at the center and truly enjoy having the opportunity to speak with you regarding the care your child receives at the center.

We are excited to for the continual remodel and upgrade our facility this summer. The reception desk will be removed and replaced with a smaller, more modern reception area and the front lobby will be turned into a parent reception area with the coffee stand and snacks. The front gate will be more secure as we add a keypad system and a security camera in the coming weeks. All of the remodeling will be conducted during weekends and should not impact the operations of the center. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Our Annual Family Event will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This years theme is “Beach Party” so make sure to bring the fun in the sun! We will have age appropriate activities, entertainment and music, and light refreshments. We hope to see you all there!

Best wishes,

Winnie

## Important Dates

Mr. Harry- July 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Parent Partnership Meeting- “Tea with Winnie” July 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Annual Parent Event- August 9 at 4:30 p.m.

## Reasons to Celebrate

Marleen P.- 19 Years

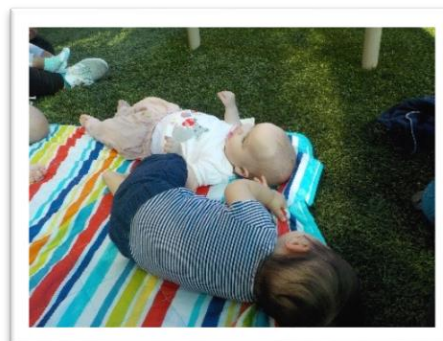
Liliana L. – 6 years

Marisa G. – 4 years

# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Infant Two

The children in Infant Two have been exploring the playground because there is so much to see and do outside. The children explored using their senses by seeing and feeling everything around them, such as the grass. While outside, the children engage in developmental exercises, such as rolling over and pulling themselves up. When children practice simple physical skills such as these, they are learning how to make intentional movements and develop an awareness of their body.



## Infant Three

The children in Infant Three enjoyed participating in a Science Rocks activity. One activity that they were particularly engaged in was making and exploring goop. Goop is a substance made of corn starch and water, and it has the ability to go from a liquid to solid as you're exploring it. The children were engaged while using their senses to explore the properties of goop. The children used their fingers and hands to grasp the goop, which helped develop their small muscle skills. To help the children develop the concept of volume, they were given cups that they could fill up with goop then dump it out.



## Infant Four

The children in Infant Four have been engaging various Art Smart activities with music. In particular, the children explored musical instruments such as the tambourine and xylophone in order to explore the concept of sound. The children used their creativity as they explored different ways to make the sound from the instrument through the use of their hands and finger. To further the children's musical exploration, we also had Mr. Harry come play his ukulele for us so the children could use their language skills to sing and play along.



## Infant Five

The children in Infant Five have been very interested in exploring Language Works activities. During a small group activity, the children learned new words in sign language such as “milk”, “water”, “more”, and “all done”. Each day the teacher added new words for the children to learn so they could expand their vocabularies. The children also got to develop their language skills by exploring sign language books as well. The teachers utilized the books to help give the children a visual of the new words they were learning. Expanding the children's vocabularies through sign language gives infants the independence to express their needs and wants more clearly.



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Toddler One

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The children in Toddler One have been actively exploring their senses through our sensory table activities. During one specific activity, the children helped put the ingredients flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and water into the table to make dough. The children then used their hands and fingers to mix the ingredients together, which helped develop their fine motor skills. The children experienced the cause and effect relationship between mixing the materials and creating something new themselves. As the children were mixing and exploring the dough, we discussed how we made it and what it smelled like (cinnamon) in order to develop the children's speaking and vocabulary skills.



## Toddler Two

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The children in Toddler Two have been exploring paint this month. In order for the children to explore the texture and different colors, we put the paint into the sensory table along with different tools for the children to use. The tools included paintbrushes, rollers, and other drawing tools. As the children used their individual creativity and the tools to explore the paint, they witnessed the concept of cause and effect and how repeated actions make something happen. Gripping and holding the tools in order to make something happen also helped develop the children's fine motor skills and pincer grasp.



## Toddler Three

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The children in Toddler Three have been developing their language and early literacy skills by independently reading books. The children developed their fine motor skills as they practiced turning each page of the book. When children explore books on our own they learn that books are enjoyable. They also learn that pictures are like words and tell a story. Through independent reading, the children have become familiar with particular books and start to pick their favorites for their teachers to read.



## Toddler Four

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The children in Toddler Four explored the primary colors red, blue, and yellow using stamps of different insects. The children developed their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination as they looked at the different stamps and reached for the one they wanted. As the children explored their creativity by stamping different colors and images on their paper, the teachers discussed what colors they were using. As the children pressed the stamps down on their paper, they got to witness the cause and effect relationship of using a tool to make something happen.

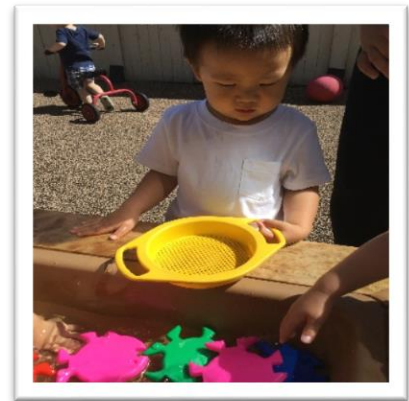




# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Toddler Five

The children in Toddler Five brought the classroom outdoors when we added connecting fish to our water table to explore. The children independently added the colorful fish to the water table as we discussed the different colors of the fish as a class. The teachers would hold up certain fish, and the children would shout out the color. Bringing a familiar item that we usually use during carpet time, such as the connectors, outdoors allowed us to examine our environment by exploring new concepts and ideas. Using our hands and fingers to connect the fishes not only allowed us to explore our fine motor skills but it also allowed us to create experiences with peers.



## Preschool Two

The children in Preschool Two were asked what they wanted to learn about next during a Handwriting without Tears choice. Multiple children expressed that they wanted to learn about fish. To start their exploration, the children listened to books about fish as a Language Works choice. In order to develop the children's speaking skills, we had a discussion about the class getting a pet fish. The children worked in small groups to make a bar graph to vote on what the fish should be named as a Math Counts choice. Making a bar graph helped the children learn how to count sequentially and understand one-to-one correspondence. The children also made their own fishing pole to catch fish as a Projections choice.



## Preschool Three

The children in Preschool Three have been learning about construction trucks. The children first started to show interest in construction when a few children talked about all the trucks they saw outside. To teach the children about their interests, we took a walk outside to take a closer look at construction trucks first hand. The children observed how the functions of some trucks work. The children then took what they saw and applied it to their Handwriting without Tears choice. The children worked with a teacher to write about different parts of the trucks, the names of the trucks, or why they like construction trucks. Engaging in frequent writing activities helps enhance the children's fine motor control. As a Math Counts choice, the children took shape flash cards and learned the different shapes that help make up a construction truck.



## Kindergarten Prep

The children in Kindergarten –Prep have been studying insects after observing insects that they saw outside on the playground. With teacher support, the children were able to use their fine motor skills to dictate a whole sentence about insects as a Handwriting without Tears choice. The children read educational books, and from those books the children selected images they liked and drew their own pictures as an Artsmart choice. When children explore age appropriate books, they learn how to use visual clues to “read” a story. The children also learned the names of the parts of the body that distinguish an insect from other kinds of creatures. As a Math Counts choice, the children used rulers and other items to measure the height of the different insects.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Family Traditions Celebrate Life!

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Regardless of the size of your family, traditions are a meaningful way to create cohesiveness, forge fond memories, and celebrate life. Meg Cox, the author of *The Book of New Family Traditions*, defines family traditions as “any activity you purposefully repeat together as a family that includes heightened attentiveness and something extra that lifts it above the ordinary ruts.”

Many of us smile when we think about our childhood traditions. We might remember Sunday afternoon walks, game or movie nights, holiday preparations, special family hugs, or a secret family handshake. Often the activity is secondary; it's the being together and sharing a custom that lives in our hearts.

Below are a few ideas for fun family traditions that you can start this year.

### **Commemorate a special day by planting a tree.**

Be it Thanksgiving, Earth Day, or to celebrate a holiday, planting a tree together connects us to nature, and produces an everlasting keepsake. Think of the library you can create by videoing and discussing the experience.

### **Designate a game night.**

A weekly game night brings everyone together for relaxed fun. Game suggestions include Apples to Apples Junior; Don't Wake Daddy; Bingo; Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat; and Guess Who? You might play action games, such as Charades, Twister, Hide and Seek, and Freeze Tag.

### **Compose family newsletters.**

Rather than adults writing an annual letter, all family members can participate by talking about their year. Young children might depict their news by drawing, painting, and taking photographs.

### **Connect with residents in a nursing home.**

Developing a relationship with people in a nursing home enriches the lives of the residents, makes your family feel good, and helps raise children with grateful hearts. Perhaps plan monthly visits and share stories, make cards, bake treats, or simply sit and hold someone's hand.

As you plan the tradition, eliminate distractions, and reserve the time as you would any meaningful activity. Remember that family traditions are about enjoying time together. As Michael J. Fox says, “Family is not an important thing. It's everything.”

# BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

## Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

Need help taming your child's tantrums? Turn those parenting lemons into lemonade!

It might not seem like it, but your child is more predictable than you think—and each stage of your child's development, along with every meltdown, is a gateway to skill-building for your little one.

Hear from early childhood experts Ellen Galinsky, the Chief Science Officer at the Bezos Family Foundation and Executive Director at Mind in the Making, and Rachel Robertson, the Education and Development Vice President at Bright Horizons, as they discuss common parenting challenges and the science behind parenting that can turn frustration into great skills for life.

You can subscribe to the Bright Horizons Family Matters Podcast through iTunes, Google Play Music, SoundCloud, Stitcher Radio, and RSS. Learn more by visiting the link below.



### Podcast: Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

[brighthouse.com/lemonstolemonade](http://brighthouse.com/lemonstolemonade)



Check out all the places you can connect with us!