



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Clever Kids Learning Center

From the Director

The departure of the many children leaving us to start kindergarten is a reminder of our strong connection to both children and families over the years we have them in our care. The infant, toddler and preschool teachers are saying their goodbyes to families they have known ranging in time for less than a year to over ten years. Every child and family has been an important part of our Clever Kids' community. We thank you for allowing us to be part of your early childhood journey.

Dates of Closure for 2019

- Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 – Federal Observance of Christmas

Classroom Events

- Preschool 1 – Friday, August 9th from 3:00 – 4:00 - Splash Day Parent Party

Featured Family Webinar

Your First Year of Parenthood

Are you a new parent acclimating to life with a new baby? The first 12 months can feel like an emotional roller coaster – exhilarating, joyful, and overwhelming, all at the same time. Don't worry – you're not alone! Most new parents feel that way, too.

Watch this **Bright Horizons**[®] family webinar,

[Your First Year of Parenthood](#). We'll talk to parenting experts and podcast hosts Marti and Erin Erickson about navigating your new normal — from bonding with your baby, to preparing for that big transition of going back to work and starting child care, to finding me time in your busy days.

www.brighthorizons.com/bhwebinarjuly2019



Bright Horizons at Clever Kids Learning Center
Building 64 Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO, 80225
303-236-9400 | www.brighthorizons.com/cleverkids
Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.





Infant 2

The children were given the opportunity to explore the turtle in a different way. We dumped an entire bag full of these balls into the turtle and let them explore. Even though they were all working with the same materials the infants were all learning different things depending on their level of development. Some of the infants practiced language skills and learned to describe the balls by color, shape, or texture. Other infants were learning to improve their motor skills by picking the balls up with one or two hands! They learned this by freely exploring the new materials the teachers introduced to the environment. We allowed the infants to choose what they did with the balls, watched the kids play with them, and offered other choices based on their lead.



Preschool North

During child choice time, we observed many of the children in different centers talking about pirates, building things that involved boats, and checking out books with several sea creatures in it. So, we decided to construct our lesson plan around those emerging interests. One of the activities we did was change our Dramatic Play center into an ocean themed area. The kids helped us with that by creating an "Ocean" backdrop. They checked out books and looked at how different artists made ocean waters. We discussed colors and textures we saw and then we let them take the reins and paint large white butcher paper with brushes and paint that was mostly blue and green. The children learned to purposefully choose art tools and materials to achieve desired outcomes. They learned this by exploring books and collaborating with each other and teachers about how to create the ocean waters. We did this activity outside to provide a different art experience.



School Readiness: What Is It?

Teachers and families worry about school readiness and rightfully so. We want to give children every opportunity for success and happiness. This desire comes from a place of concern and caring. The challenge is in supporting children's growth in a way that is truly helpful and reflective of their needs. At **Bright Horizons**[®], we believe school readiness is not about preparing for one moment, but rather, a lifetime of learning. Yet our national obsession with getting a child ready for school seems primarily focused on preparing them to excel in academics right out of the gate, rather than building a foundation for school and beyond that is inclusive of all aspects of development (whole-child development).

We know more than we ever have about early development. We know how much children are capable of, what helps a child thrive, and what hinders their growth. We understand that academics are an important part of learning, but not superior to social-emotional learning, physical development, or executive function. We know the pushdown of school expectations is hurting young children and we are confident it is important that we, as early education experts and advocates, push back up. It's not wrong to build skills to prepare for school, but it is wrong to isolate them and teach them too soon or inappropriately. In the words of Magda Gerber, "Earlier is not better."

Since the beginning, the Bright Horizons approach has been centered on how children learn best, prioritizing relationships and social-emotional learning, making academic learning meaningful and embedded within play, building brains and bodies in a joyful and wonderful environment, and ensuring plenty of opportunity to explore, think, and discover. This is what readies a child, what builds a strong foundation for all that is next.



Cooking with Children

Children love being involved with cooking and preparing food. Cooking is also a great way to engage children in learning and to create teachable moments all while having some messy fun.

When cooking with one- to two-year-olds –

Make sure they are safely restrained in a high chair and give them samples to taste or smear as you keep up a steady stream of commentary. Look for tasks they might be able to accomplish with your help, such as pouring tiny portions of ingredients (e.g., a quarter cup of milk or water) or simply dropping ingredients into a bowl.