

Kindergarten

at Bright Horizons at
Cranberry



Kindergarten
 **READY for SCHOOL**

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Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of the school year! We are going to have a busy and productive year filled with exciting learning activities and more! I hope to make education fun for your child and instill a love of learning in them.

Our program includes *The World at Their Fingertips* emergent curriculum, *Kindermath and Math Essentials*, *Kinderwriting*, *Phonological Awareness Listening Activities Curriculum*, *Science of Reading Guided Phonics and Beyond*, and the *Daily Five*. The curriculum will also be aligned with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. On each weekly lesson plan, you will see sets of numbers (i.e. C.C.1.2.KA, K.OA.2-4). These numbers are the PA Common Core Standards that are being met in each subject area.

For an in depth explanation of each of the standards, please refer to the following website: <http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/PD/Standards/Kindergarten%202010.pdf>.

I could also send a detailed copy of the standards via email. Please let me know if this is something you would like.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at cranberry.kdg@outlook.com or contact the Kindergarten classroom by calling 724-720-0829.

I look forward to working with you and your Kindergartner!

Sincerely,

Debbie Pickerd
("Mrs. P")

Meet the Teacher

First, I want to share a little bit about me! I am Mrs. P and I am very excited to be your child's Kindergarten teacher. I have two kids of my own. My daughter Karalee is 24 and my son Kraig is 22. I have been married to my husband Cliff for 30 years. This year will be my 30th year in the teaching field. Through the years I have worked with children ranging in age from 6 weeks to high school. I even owned my own childcare center for 11 years, giving me experience in administration, too. I love what I do and am always inspired by the kids that I teach!

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Kindergarten Daily Schedule

7:00-9:00	Arrival, Free Choice
9:00-9:30	Morning Meeting including greeting, sharing, activity, morning message and daily commitment/ Pledge of Allegiance
9:30-10:00	Phonological Awareness, Guided Phonics and Beyond, Morning Activity
10:00-10:30	Morning Snack and Restroom Breaks
10:30-11:00	Math Time (May be whole group, small group or individual practice)
11:00-11:30	Writing
11:30-12:00	Lunch and Restroom Breaks
12:00-12:30	Child Choice Learning Centers/ Quiet Activities
12:30-1:30	Science Rocks
1:30-2:00	Gross Motor Time
2:00-3:00	Language Works (Guided Phonics and Beyond, Daily Five, Independent & Guided Reading)
3:00-3:15	Afternoon Snack and Kindergarten Wrap Up
3:15-5:30	Kindergarten Program Ends

Important Skills to Practice Leading up to Kindergarten

- Identifying both upper and lowercase letters
- Practicing letter sounds
- Writing their first name using upper and lower case letters
- Identifying numbers 0 to 10

Important Items to Bring

- **Book Bag:** With the excitement of school, comes the new beginning of using a book bag to transport important papers and materials to and from school!
- **Pencil Box/Bag:** The supplies will be provided to each child. We just need the container!
- **Change of Clothes:** Even in Kindergarten we sometimes need extra clothes! As the children learn to be independent, messes sometimes happen. Please bring in at least 2 changes of seasonally appropriate clothes to leave in the cabinet above your child's cubby.
- **Sunscreen:** Please bring in a bottle of non-aerosol sunscreen with your child's first and last name on it for outdoor times in the Spring and Summer.

Please do not bring in toys from home.

Classroom Expectations

The Kindergarten classroom belongs to everyone. Together we follow what we call “Whole Brain Rules!” Together we:

1. Listen when the teacher is talking.
2. Follow directions quickly!
3. Respect others, respect yourself, and respect school!
4. Raise your hand to speak.
5. Be safe, be kind, be honest!

What will we be learning this year?

Overview

- ▶ **Reading and Writing Skills** – Your child will be introduced to all preliminary sight words along with some primer sight words. They will build on reading skills to begin reading early reader books using guided reading and phonological awareness. We recognize each child learns different, and each child will build on their reading level at their own pace. They will also build skills to write with the knowledge of beginning punctuation and sentence structure.
- ▶ **Math Concepts** – The children will learn to count to 100 by ones and will learn to skip count to 100 by 2, 5 and 10. The children will be introduced to comparing sets, measuring, time telling, addition, subtraction, graphing, tally marks, patterning, 2 & 3-Dimensional shape and money.
- ▶ **Science** – The children will learn about American symbols, weather, trees, seasons, the difference between living and non-living things, life cycles of plants and animals, what plants and animals need to grow, pollution, recycling, chemistry, the human anatomy, density, matter and geography.
- ▶ **Social Skills** – Your child will learn about conflict resolution, problem solving, classroom responsibility, beginning geography and multiple cultures.

We are so glad that you have chosen Bright Horizons as the place for your child to learn and grow! We look forward to beginning this journey with you and your Kindergartener!

Communication

We use a variety of communication tools in the classroom and at the center. We want you to feel like you are here with your child and don't miss a thing. We feel that our partnerships with families are the most important part of a child's development. Below is a list of communication tools and how we use them:

- **Lesson Plans** – Each week a lesson plan is created. This includes activities and materials changed in all of the learning centers, as well as outdoor activities and small group activities. The lesson plan is posted in the classroom and also shared via email. On the lesson plan you will find daily activities, center enrichments and special events.
- **My Bright Day** – To receive a Daily Report on your child, you will download the My Bright Day mobile app that is in partnership with Tadpoles. This form can be accessed via smartphones, email and the web, allowing you to view information about your child's day electronically and in real time. Your child's learning experiences will all be shared on their Daily Report! You can also leave us notes on the iPad before checking your child in for the day if you have anything you would like to communicate to us.
- **Email** – You can email us anytime at cranberry.kdg@outlook.com and we will respond as soon as possible.
- **Assessments** – Kindergarten assessments will be completed 3 times through the year and opportunities for parent teacher conferences are offered after each assessment period throughout the year.
- **Weekly Update Email** – At the end of each week, Center Admin send out a weekly update email to all enrolled families. The email comes from bhcranberry@brighthorizons.com. This email will inform you of health updates, center reminders and more!
- **Center Newsletter** – At the beginning of each month a center newsletter will be sent out. This is a great way to see the learning experiences happening in each age group!

As always, we are here anytime you need us! Never hesitate to call, email or send a note in the I-pad! Communication is important as we help your child learn and grow in our care.