

Bright Horizons at USAA Child Development Center News

From the Director

Staff Appreciation week is right around the corner!

We will be celebrating Teacher and Staff Appreciation during the month of May, with a special focus during the week of May 14-18. We have fun activities or gifts planned each day for the Teachers and Staff.

Activities include:

- Monday, May 14- Thanks for Helping Me Grow! (Flowers/Plants)
- Tuesday, May 15- How Sweet it is to be Taught By You! (Sweets/Chocolate)
- Wednesday, May 16- Pamper Me Day
- Thursday, May 17- Teacher and Staff Breakfast
- Friday, May 18-Special Thank You Day

Although we plan to provide some goodies for the teachers and staff, we invite the parents and children to participate in any of the activities. Friday is a special thank you day for families to write notes or offer tokens of appreciation in any way you would like. There is no obligation, just a voluntary gesture that express how much we appreciate all the teachers and staff do! Also see the last page of the newsletter on how to post a special note for your child's teacher online!

Important Dates

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE THIS MONTH

Please see your child's teacher for sign-ups

May 11th- 7:00- 9:00 am *Muffins for Mom* - lobby

May 13th- Mother's Day

May 14th-18th Staff Appreciation Week

May 16th- Saving for College Webinar

May 25th- Last Day of VPK

May 28th- **Center Closed**- Memorial Day

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday!

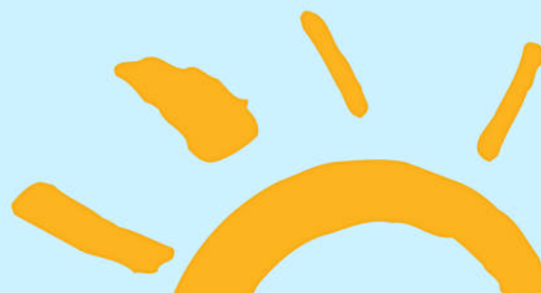
Laila R.	Ayowale L
Emily F.	Dominick D.
Riley J.	Marley S.

Bright Horizons at USAA Child Development Center

17200 Commerce Park Blvd Tampa, Florida 33543

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Monday- Friday 6:30 AM-6:30 PM



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Babies are born scientists-programmed to investigate, experiment, and discover how the world works. Science to infants is not found in elaborate experiments but rather in real-world and everyday moments as they move through their environment, manipulate objects, and explore with all their senses. Ayvah is using her senses as she explores the objects that are in the sensory table. She uses her hands to move the various textured objects around in the green water. In infants, we learn to use our sense to explore the properties of an object. We learn it by using safe toys and materials with varied textures.



Toddler

Toddlers begin to develop a disposition that influences how they view the world and relate to others, making it the ideal stage of development for fostering positive attitudes that will last a lifetime. Daily activities like viewing diverse family photos and playing with differently abled figurines help children to step outside their own boundaries and embrace important concepts such as acceptance and appreciation of diversity. Chevy and Ryan are learning to make friends and develop positive relationships. They learn this by playing together in the block center building a structure.



Preschool

Preschool children are ready to make big strides in social and emotional development. At this age, they can show empathy and communicate their needs; and they are starting to play with peers and engage in more complex interactions and conversations. Caring Matters help children learn these skills. The curriculum guides the classroom experiences to promote the use of positive language with peers, to continue to develop social-emotional skills, and to help children foster the ability to initiate positive interactions. Sage and Alejandra are learning to nurture relationships as they play with each other on the swing. Alejandra pushes Sage on the swing as she waits her turn.



Kindergarten Prep

Insert body children in kindergarten prep are fascinated by numerical concepts and mathematical thinking. They are enthusiastic mathematicians, engaging in math regularly as they build block towers, make patterns on a canvas, complete puzzles, or measure the length of a shadow. Zamara is learning to match sets to the corresponding numerals. She learns this by matching the dots to the correct numeral.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Family Fitness Fun

You've heard the statistics: one in five preschoolers is obese and the childhood obesity rate has tripled in the last 30 years. At Bright Horizons®, we're passionate about children's health and we believe this trend can be reversed. In 2011, Bright Horizons joined the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA). As part of our PHA commitment, we're updating physical education training materials for teachers to ensure that children get the physical activity they need every day. We're also producing a host of resources for families. Building better health is as simple as becoming more physically active, one step at a time. Below are a few ideas for easy family fitness.

Start a habit.

Children aren't particularly interested in why fitness is so important. They are interested, though, in fun family time. Establishing habits of physical activity in childhood paves the way for healthy adulthood. So, try to plan at least one physical activity on the weekend. Go for a walk, play at the park, or head to a pool. Think about building physical activity into your schedule at least three times during the week. This can be as simple as throwing a ball around before dinner or playing a quick game of hide and seek. It doesn't have to be lengthy or complicated, but you do need to be intentional about it. Write it into your schedule so it becomes a habit.

Get mobile.

One of the simplest ways to get more exercise is by ditching the car. Walk, bike, or rollerblade to school, the store, the library – anywhere you can. Some areas are more “walk friendly” than others, of course, but try to walk as often as possible.

Work it out.

Family chores are another way to get moving. Raking leaves, weeding a garden, mopping the floor – all these activities get the body moving. Turn on some music and make chores a fun family time. Try to be consistent, as well. When children know that the family will spend an hour every Saturday working together, for example, they're less likely to balk and more likely to see it as a predictable part of their family culture.



Education & Development

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Join us in celebrating our teachers & staff!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member can receive is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make their classrooms a wonderful place for children and families.

Teacher Appreciation Day is May 8th but our teachers, support staff, and leadership team work hard all year long to make your child's experience here the very best it can be. Help us celebrate them all month long!

Your thoughts make a difference – and mean a lot to all of us. Take a moment to share any stories, comments, and well wishes for those who touch your family's life each day.

Visit our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website to leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.

appreciation.brighthorizons.com



Check out all the places you can connect with us!