

News from Clever Kids

Learning Center

From the Director

The Bright Horizons' Foundation for Children creates playrooms known as Bright Spaces. More than 300 of these exist in homeless & domestic violence shelters, hospitals, prisons and other places that serve children in crisis. They are located throughout the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, the U.K and Ireland. That means thousands of children have a safe place to play and just be a kid. For the many families & teachers that purchased photos from the fall shoot and class photo sales, you have contributed to those Bright Spaces. Clever Kids donated the refund check given to us by the photographer for allowing her to do the shoot here in the center. The donation was \$634.50 which should certainly contribute to maintain a play area & give brief respite to a child in a stressful situation.

Dates of Closure for 2018

- May 28th - Memorial Day
- July 4th - Independence Day
- Sept. 3rd - Labor Day
- Oct. 8th - Columbus Day
- Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day
- Nov. 22nd and 23rd - Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25th - Federal Observance of Christmas

Classroom Events

Parent-Teacher conferences will be offered for the Preschool Wing classrooms in the months of March & April. Sign-up sheets will be posted in individual classrooms.

- Infant 1 - Friday, March 16, 3:30 - 4:30
- Pre- East - Friday, March 16, 3:15 - 4:15
- Pre-North - Friday, March 23, 3:15 - 4:15

Clever Kids Learning Center managed by Bright Horizons

Building 64 Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO, 80225

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CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool West

Last month our topic was friends. We discussed many ways to be a friend and then tried to put those ideas into action. This is part of our Caring Matters curriculum that happens on a daily basis. While observing all the hearts for Valentine's Day, we took it a step further and learned about our real hearts.

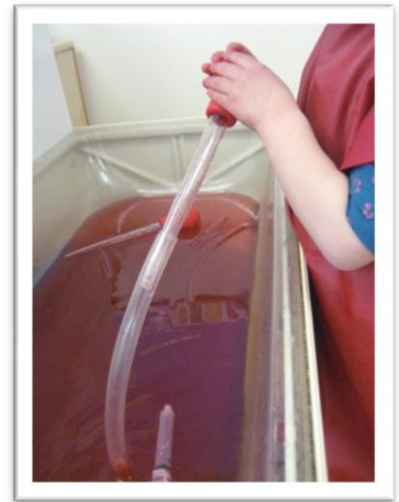
The children were excited to study Cardiology! In the tactile table there were turkey basters and medicine syringes to represent a heart pumping. Then tubing was used for veins. We also observed our own veins as they could be seen through some areas of the skin. Stethoscopes were a scientific tool which we used to explore our heart and heart rate.

Art Smart had the class busy with play dough to sculpt the shape of a heart, bright dobber paints were used as well as collage materials to create and build fine motor skills

Children enjoyed making fruit kabobs using strawberries, cantaloupe and bananas. Heart healthy and delicious!

The class took a break from all the fancy dresses and parties to take on different roles. Dramatic play was converted into a doctor's office. Excited children were all a buzz as doctors and nurses took care of patients. The receptionist was very busy building writing skills as they made appointments.

So many of our activities cross different areas of the Bright Horizons curriculum. We look forward to the emergent curriculum with all the fun and learning ahead!



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Everyone Wins at Family Game Night!

Have you considered gathering on a regularly designated evening to play games? Interactive family activities foster growth in all domains of development, but more importantly, having fun as a family promotes bonding and intimacy, builds trust, instills a sense of security, teaches children about winning and losing, and creates lifelong memories.

Tips for family game nights:

- Schedule a regular day and time. Reserve it as you would any important activity.
- Plan games that are appropriate for varied age groups. Include children in the decision making.
- Eliminate distractions. Turn off cell phones and other devices.
- Focus on fun!

The benefits:

Playing board games helps children learn to take turns, follow rules, and think strategically. Many board games strengthen focus and literacy and math skills. Moving pieces along a board, holding cards, rolling dice, or spinning a spinner builds small muscle development and hand-eye coordination.

Choosing Games

Selecting games can be an enjoyable process. Game suggestions to check out are *Apples to Apples Junior*, *Don't Wake Daddy*, *Alphabet*, Number or Color Bingo; Dr. Seuss' the Cat in the Hat; *I Can Do That!*; and *Guess Who*. Games such as BANANA GRAMS offer challenge for many ages. For young children, look for games that are colorful, engaging, and take less than 20 minutes to play. Those that focus on cooperation, rather than competition, are also a good choice.

Make a homemade "memory" game by copying family photos on cardstock and laminating the cards. Turn chores into a game, e.g., let your young child match socks or toss the socks into a laundry basket. Get the whole family moving with action games. Try Charades, *Twister*, Hide and Seek, *Sardines*, Freeze Tag, Red Light, Green Light, or Mother May I.

Game night is about families being together. It doesn't have to cost money, but the gains are tremendous because ultimately, everyone wins!

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

We are hosting an Open House in April!



Next month, we will be hosting an Open House Week where new families will be able to discover why Bright Horizons is the perfect place for children to learn, explore, and grow!

Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them. Please see your Center Director for details. We hope to see everyone at Open House Week!

Join us for a summer of fun, friendships, and exploration!

Summer is less than 6 months away! Our two summer camp programs, *Camp Explorations: Preschool Adventures* (ages 3-5) and *Camp Explorations: School-Age Adventures* for school age (ages 6-12), take advantage of everything summer has to offer.

Our teachers develop a fun curriculum that uses surrounding communities and special visitors as an extension of the camp and integrate technology throughout the programs. Children learn about the world around them while exploring nature, experimenting with science, and engaging in creative arts.

To learn more about summer camp programs at your center, talk to your center director. Programs vary by location.



Check out all the places you can connect with us!

MENU

| ² Week of 03/05/18 – 03/09/18 | AM Snack | Lunch | PM Snack |
|--|---|--|--|
| Monday | Oyster Crackers Cheese Slices Juice | Pancakes with Sausage Mixed Berries Apple Slices Milk | Chex Mix Milk |
| Tuesday | Zucchini Bread Milk | Pasta Salad (Ham, Pepperoni, Cheese, and Veggies) Whole Grain Crackers Pineapple mixed with Pears Milk | Tortilla Chips or Ritz Crackers with Nacho Cheese Water |
| Wednesday | Tortillas with Cream Cheese Milk | Turkey Ham on Wheat Carrot and Celery Sticks with Dip Orange Slices Milk | Yogurt and Fruit Water |
| Thursday | Oatmeal Raisins Milk | Bean and Cheese Burritos Corn Peaches Milk | Pumpkin Bread Milk |
| Friday | Cereal Milk | Cheese Pizza Rounds on an English Muffin Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk | Pita Bread with Hummus Carrot Sticks Water |

| ³ Week of 03/12/18 – 03/16/18 | AM Snack | Lunch | PM Snack |
|--|---|--|--|
| Monday | Cottage Cheese Peaches Milk | Cheese Enchiladas Black Beans Pineapple Milk | Wheat Bread Squares with Jelly Milk |
| Tuesday | Oatmeal Apple Slices Milk | Scrambled Eggs with Ham and Shredded Zucchini English Muffin with Butter Orange Slices Sliced Tomatoes Milk | Pita Bread with Hummus and Celery Sticks Water |
| Wednesday | Diced Cantaloupe with Strawberries Milk | Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Side Salad Mango Fruit Mix Milk | Gorp (Cereal, Raisins, Choc. Chips) Milk |
| Thursday | Cereal Sliced Banana Milk | Whole-Grain Bread with Sun Butter and Jelly Corn Peaches Milk | Pears Milk |
| Friday | Cinnamon Raisin Bagel With Cream Cheese Juice | Pasta E. Fagioli (ground sausage and beans) Wheat Saltines Pineapple and Pear Mix Milk | Graham Crackers Apple Slices Milk |

MENU

| 4 Week of 03/19/18 – 03/23/18 | AM Snack | Lunch | PM Snack |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday | Wheat Toast with Butter Milk | Macaroni and Cheese Peas & Carrots Orange Slices Milk | Celery Sticks Raisins Sun Butter Water |
| Tuesday | Bran Muffins Cheese Slice Milk | Black Beans and Rice Tortillas Corn Applesauce Milk | Whole-Grain Breadstick Carrot Sticks and Cucumbers with Yogurt Dip Water |
| Wednesday | Cereal Sliced Bananas Milk | Sloppy Joes Baked Beans Peaches Milk | Vanilla Wafers or Animal Crackers Milk |
| Thursday | Bagel with Cream Cheese Juice | Chicken Noodle Casserole Green Beans Applesauce Milk | Chex Mix Cereals Raisins Milk |
| Friday | Banana Zucchini Bread Milk | Mashed Potatoes with Hamburger Gravy Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots Pears Milk | Graham Crackers Yogurt Water |

| 5 Week of 03/25/18 – 03/30/18 | AM Snack | Lunch | PM Snack |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Monday | Cornbread with Honey Butter Milk | Hamburger Stroganoff Broccoli Peaches Milk | Animal Crackers or Vanilla Wafers Milk |
| Tuesday | Mixed Berries Cheese Slice Milk | Egg Salad on Wheat Celery and Carrot Sticks Yogurt Dip Apple Slices Milk | Wheat Thins and Cheese Nips Milk |
| Wednesday | Muffin Squares Milk | Taco Salad (Ground Beef and Mixed lettuce mix with shredded carrots and cabbage) Corn Pears Milk | ½ Banana with Whole Grain Cinnamon Crackers Water |
| Thursday | Oatmeal Raisins Milk | English Muffin Cheese Pizza Peas and Carrots Applesauce Milk | Tortillas with Sun Butter Juice |
| Friday | Yogurt Granola Milk | Chicken Noodle Soup (with added veggies and chicken) Wheat Saltines Cheese Mango Fruit Mix Milk | Applesauce Cake Milk |

