



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Argonne Child Development Center

Child Assessment at the Center

At Bright Horizons, we recognize that children learn at different rates and in different ways. An important aspect of our curriculum is to track each child's developmental progress with ongoing evaluation and documentation. This allows us to regularly assess skills, to partner with you to create goals for your child's growth and learning, and to guide every child toward the next developmental step.

The assessment system we use does not involve testing children rather we use a more holistic and comprehensive approach to learn about each child. MyTeachingStrategies®, integrated with My Bright Day®, helps us observe and plan for each child ensuring that every child is making progress. It helps us discover each child's strengths, skills, interests, and needs so we know how to help every child experience success. We know how important these early years are to children's success in school and in life. Like you, we want to do everything we can to give your child a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

The most authentic way to discover what children know and can do is to observe them as they participate in daily activities in the program. Like you, we observe children all the time. The observations we do for assessment are more intentional. We are watching and listening to gain information on specific aspects of their development and learning.

We observe children over time and at different periods of the day to be sure we capture an accurate picture of what each child knows and can do. The examples of what your child knows and can do are documented and sent to the portfolio that we share with you via My Bright Day®.

[Learn more about assessment and the My Bright Day app.](#)

FROM THE WEB

[Coughs and Colds: Medicines or Home Remedies?](#)

[10 Common Childhood Illnesses and Their Treatments](#)

[PRODUCT RECALLS FROM CPSC](#)

Information regarding recalls issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission
[Please review your home for these items.](#)



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ON PARENTING TOPICS](#)

Growing Readers



Title: All the Way to Havana
Written by Margarita Engle
Illustrated by Mike Curato

A boy and his parents drive to the city of Havana, Cuba, in their old family car. A joyful celebration of the Cuban people and their resourceful innovation.

[Check out more Books of Excellence from the
Bright Horizons Growing Readers Library.](#)



Infants

Math Counts: Children in the infant classrooms explored stacking blocks. Younger infants work to grasp and manipulate individual blocks, exploring the shape and texture. Older infants explore how multiple blocks can be used together – tapping them and attempting to connect them. The teachers built various structures and the infants work to dissemble them. While playing with connecting blocks, children develop an understanding of spatial relationships while working on fine motor development and problem solving skills.



Toddlers

Science Rocks: The toddler explored and experimented with the wind tunnel in the STEM lab. They took turns putting a scarf through the wind tunnel and watching the fan blow it out of the end. Then the toddlers would catch the scarves as the floated back down to the ground. Toddlers develop an understanding of cause and effect when engaging in repetitive activities. Children learn to question while exploring materials when they describe and discuss what they see and experience with their teacher.



Twos

Science Rocks: After a recent snow event, the two year olds ventured outside to the playground to explore. They found chunks of ice – big and little ones, as well as some water puddles. They explored the ice, investigating its properties. The ice was “heavy” when picked up and “hard” stomped on with boots. Children learn about the properties of materials when they explore objects freely. They learn to make observations and question when exploring materials when they describe and discuss observations and experiences with teachers.



Preschool

Toward A Better World: In celebration of Chinese New Year, the preschoolers created a dragon. They worked together, using cardboard, paper, and streamers. While working on the dragon, the class talked about the significance of Chinese New Year and dragons in the Chinese culture. Once the dragon was complete, the children paraded through the center performing a “dragon dance” for all to see. When children celebrate multicultural holidays in authentic ways, they learn to practice acceptance and appreciation.



Kindergarten Prep

Science Rocks: Kindergarten Prep conducted an experiment on conversation heart candies this past month. They wanted to find out what would happen when they put the candies in different types of liquids – water, oil, vinegar. The children selected a material and placed the hearts in the cup. After making predictions, the children waited, made observations and then recorded their results in their journal. Children learn to plan investigations, develop hypotheses, make predictions, and draw conclusions when they participate in the class experiments.

Embarrassing Moments: Opportunities to Learn

There are times when our bright, curious children cause us to cringe by their comments or questions. “Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?” “Why is her skin dark?” “Where are his legs?”

In these moments, we often feel embarrassed and helpless. Our sweet young children, who we raise in an atmosphere of respect, acceptance, and kindness, might innocently offend someone ...and we’re speechless.

Young children are curious and still learning about the world; they don’t mean to be hurtful or malicious. Many adults are inclined to explain and have children apologize, but this can embarrass both the children and the recipient. In this situation, it’s best to validate what a child is observing and turn it into a learning opportunity.

Below are a few examples of common questions and helpful responses.

“That man has no legs!”

- ▶ Calmly and matter-of-factly explain that we all have different bodies and abilities. Then when your child asks, “Why doesn’t he have legs?” You might say, “I’m not sure, perhaps he was born that way.” Then you might ask, “How do you think someone would get around if they didn’t have legs?”

“Why is her skin dark?”

- ▶ This is an opportunity to explain that everyone is unique and to talk about different types and colors of hair skin and eyes. When you get home, you might show your children an array of colored apples and cut them open to see that they’re all the same color inside.

“Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?”

- ▶ A simple, honest response is, “Men can’t have babies in their tummies. Only women can.” A child further inquiring, “then why is he so fat?” opens the door for adults to let children know that people come in all sizes and shapes; we all have different body types.

How adults handle situations in the moment matters, but equally important is turning these moments into learning opportunities. After the event, explain to your child that sometimes things we say can unintentionally hurt people’s feelings.

Use your child’s comment as a springboard to discuss diversity, emotions, and the impact of words. Explain that all questions are welcome, but it’s a good idea to check with the adults before commenting to strangers.

You're invited to Our Open House!

April 8 – 12 | 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



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!

Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

Teach. Play. Love. Parenting Advice for the Early Years


Technology is everywhere. As adults, we rely on it constantly. And for kids, it provides great value, as long as it's used in the "right" way. But what does that mean, exactly?

Debbie Hoppy, curriculum director at Bright Horizons, and Rachel Robertson, VP of education and development, share what really matters: interactive experiences and co-exploration, questions that encourage deeper thinking, and opportunities for integrating technology into the real world.

Ep. 1: The Digital Dilemma

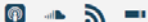
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About this Podcast



The Work-Life Equation

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Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

