



Year in Review

From the Center Director

December is upon us and every year I think to myself, "where did this year go?" Reflection is key for me so around this time of year I like to stop and take a moment to really dig deep into what we have accomplished and areas of growth over the last eleven months. How did we do this year with program? Were our transitions smooth? Did we do well with communication? Is there room for improvement in our day-to-day operations? Did we support our community? What worked, and what didn't? How can we tweak systems in the up and coming year? What is next for the leadership team? Believe it or not, these are just a few of the questions I am pondering at this year's end.

One area I recognize for growth is incorporating inspired Reggio art in our classrooms. During the time we began to implement this, the team was going through a transition period. In 2020 we will revisit Reggio Emilia. This is still very important to me and we will continue to work on bringing this to life in our center.

Looking back over the last year we said goodbye to several teachers for a variety of reasons. The most common reason teachers left was due to promotions, and that by far makes me delighted! With teachers leaving we had to recruit new teachers that would be a good fit to an already amazing team. I have to say, we nailed it! Every new teacher that we hired this year has by far exceeded my expectations. I am thrilled with all of our new additions and happy they are a part of our Harbor family.

We have a lot to be proud of this year! We were successful with every licensing visit, maintained NAEYC accreditation, were above company expectations for center/company audits, and became the hub for training new Directors and teachers (we are very proud that the division chose our center!). Parent and teacher survey scores were in the top 10% of our company. We worked with Centronia and hosted a cohort CDA class for several teachers at our center but also offered classes for teachers in the community. We also piloted new programs for Bright Horizons that will be introduced in 2020. The team and I have a great deal to be proud of and feel positive. We look forward to what the next 12 months!

Happy New Year, ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος, bonne année, Frohes

neues Jahr, hau'oli makahiki hou, gelukkige Nuwe Jaar,

明けましておめでとうございます, Melkam Enkutatash, שנה טובה

Jacqueline

Important Dates



December 6th: Please let your Team Lead or Samantha know your holiday plans by COB

December 19th: Tiny Chefs visit Preschool and K-Prep

December 20th: DC Librarian Visits

December 25th: Center Closed in observance of Christmas Day

December 25th: January Tuition is due and new tuition rates will go into effect

December 31st: Last day to donate to S.O.M.E.

Reasons to Celebrate



Eoin

Jeremy

Olive

Charlotte

Violet

Edward

Ms. Victoria

Ms. Fei

The Power of Play

Whether building a tower with blocks, digging for earthworms, playing a board game, pretending to be super heroes, or using puppets to tell a story, children have always used play as a primary means for learning and growing. “Play is something done for its own sake,” according to psychiatrist Stuart Brown, author of *Play*, “It’s voluntary, it’s pleasurable, it offers a sense of engagement, it takes you out of time. And the act itself is more important than the outcome.”

The benefits of play in early childhood are countless. Play offers children opportunities to explore and practice concepts, research and test ideas without worrying about a right or wrong answer, and learn about others and themselves. Most important, play provides meaningful and integrated experiences that nurture whole-child growth and development.

But in many places, play has been replaced by “real” learning, recess has been cut for the sake of more academics, and memorization activities have dominated over meaningful experiences. As play has decreased, rates of childhood stress and anxiety have increased. Educators have observed decreases in children’s engagement and interest in learning, despite the vast amount of research that affirms the benefits of learning through play.

The Bright Horizons approach

At **Bright Horizons®**, we promise an integrated curriculum that offers an emergent, inquiry-based approach to learning. This seems like a tall order, but *World at Their Fingertips®* delivers on those promises through a thoughtful combination of project work, engaging experiences, and play.

Play is at the heart of our approach and philosophy. We believe that it is the primary vehicle for optimal growth in childhood. Through play, we can:

- ▶ Nurture and care for each child
- ▶ Cultivate curiosity and creativity
- ▶ Encourage children to be confident experimenters and problem solvers
- ▶ Create joyful places for childhood

Cooking with Children – Four- and Five-Year-Olds



Four- and five-year-olds are learning to control small muscles in their fingers. They are also learning the properties of things (e.g., weight, volume, color, quantity, and so on), the relationships between things, and how substances can be transformed. Try activities such as:

- ▶ Juicing oranges, lemons, and limes
- ▶ Peeling some fruits and vegetables (bananas and even onions)
- ▶ Mashing soft fruits and vegetables
- ▶ Scrubbing vegetables (potatoes, mushrooms)
- ▶ Cutting soft foods with table knives
- ▶ Pressing cookie cutters
- ▶ Measuring ingredients
- ▶ Sifting or straining



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

Subscribe to get new episodes!



Listen as parents and early childhood educators come together to cull the competing advice, separate fact from fiction, and focus on what does – and doesn't – matter during these early years. Be more confident, have less worry...and let Bright Horizons help make parenting the joy it was meant to be.

Teach. Play. Love. Featured Podcast Episode Say Yes to Play

"Is play important?" On this episode, Rachel Robertson, Bright Horizons education and development vice president, and new mom Amanda, tackle this increasingly popular question. Find out why play is the key to healthy child development, discover how you might already be incorporating play without even realizing it, and get new ideas you can use to engage your child in playful ways throughout the day.

Episode 4: Say Yes to Play

www.brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEp4

Listen on the [Bright Horizons website](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google](#), [Libsyn](#), and [Stitcher](#).

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