

Bright Horizons at Landmark News

From the Director

Dear Landmark families and faculty,

Summer is officially here and we are ready for many summer fun activities at the center. Our Annual Summer Family Event will be on Thursday, August 9 from 4:30 pm to 6 pm and we look forward to seeing all of our families this year. Light refreshments will be served along with summer activities for all age groups.

The Landmark building continues to be under major construction. We had to relocate our front entrance gate and will be placing a barrier leading to the center. We will be installing a key pad and camera on the outdoor metal gate for added security to the center. In addition to the outdoor project, we will be renovating Marleen's desk and the parent lobby area. The work will be completed during off hours and should not affect our daily operations. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the faculty upgrades.

Our next Parent Partnership meeting, Tea with Winnie, will be on Thursday, July 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for families to share feedback about your child's experience at the center or any concern or commendation. I value your feedback and look forward to this meeting. As always, you can also reach me directly at Winnie.bordman@brighthorizons.com.

Enjoy your summering in New England and have a safe 4th of July!

Best,

Winnie

Important Dates

Annual Family Event- August 9,
2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Parent Partnership Group- Tea
with Winnie July 12, 2018 at
4:00 p.m.

Reasons to Celebrate

**Katie S.- Assistant Director 8
years**

Marilyn P. Toddler EC 1 year

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant Two

The children in Infant Two have been very interested in sensory activities, so their teachers set up a variety of sensory experiences for them to explore. In this particular activity, the children explored cornmeal with colored sand using a variety of tools, such as toy shovels. This activity helped develop the children's fine motor skills because it allowed the children to use their hands and fingers to grasp and pick-up tools as well as explore the texture of the cornmeal and sand. When children explore different items with varied textures, they learn how to manipulate objects and use their senses to explore the properties of an object.



Infant Three

The children in Infant Three have been developing their early literacy skills through book exploration. While exploring different books, the children reached out to feel the texture and to hold onto them in their hands. While reading the books, the teachers pointed out the different colors and shapes as the children babbled. Book exploration is an important part of infant development because it helps the children improve their hand-eye coordination. The children also developed their fine motor skills and independence as they grasped the book to attempt to turn the pages on their own.



Infant Four

The children in Infant 4 have been exploring different colors and textures. The children used their hands and fingers to explore the "slimy" texture of red, yellow, and white paint. As the children explored they experienced the concept of cause and effect by mixing different colors to make new ones. The children discovered that when mixing yellow and red it makes orange. This activity also strengthened the children's fine motor skills as they pressed down on the paper to make patterns.



Infant Five

The children in Infant Five have been very interested in various Language Works activities. The children developed their listening and speaking skills by having books read to them in English and Spanish. As the teacher read the books, they would point out different objects and say the name in English and then in Spanish. Through this early literacy activity the children were able to explore age appropriate picture books while speaking and listening to their teachers. Having books read to infants daily helps them learn how to show interest and appreciate books.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

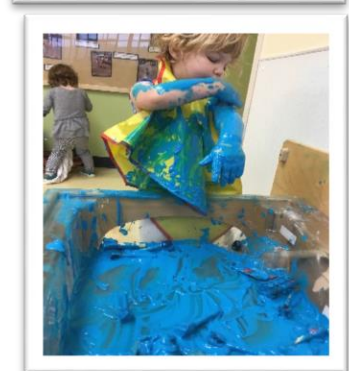
Toddler One

With summer officially being here, the children in Toddler One have been spending lots of time outside in our toddler playgrounds – the climber and the shed. Getting to spend plenty of time outside to run, play, and exercise is an important part of toddler motor development. At the climber, the children get to develop their large muscle skills by climbing up the stairs to get to the top. The children then enjoy taking turns sliding down the slides. At the shed, the children also practice climbing and balancing on wooden blocks. While outside the children learn about the importance of playing safely. Listening to and following these simple one or two-step safety directions helps develop the children's language skills.



Toddler Two

As a sensory exploration activity, Toddler Two made their own version of moon sand. They used salt, baking soda and blue paint. Exploring different textures allows the children to learn about their senses. Sensory rich activities also help the children to begin to understand their physical environment. The children were given scoopers and other scooping utensils to practice scooping which also helps with their fine motor skills. When we explore different textures, we are learning about the different physical properties of substances.



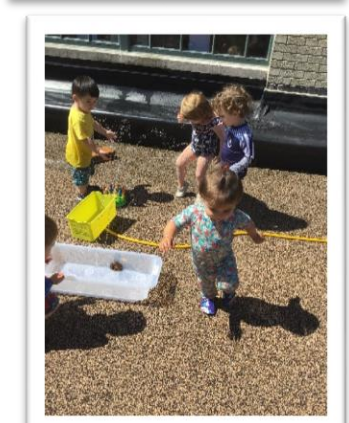
Toddler Three

Toddler Three children used shape stamps while exploring paint. The children witnessed the cause and effect of the individual stamps hitting the paint and then meeting the paper. As they explored each shape, they talked about the different colors as well as the shapes they were using. They also spotted objects around the classroom that matched the other shapes that they had previously discussed.



Toddler Four

As the summer months approach Toddlers have been going outdoors to explore water play. Sharing in water experiences with friends is great for children's social skills. During the water activity our friends are exploring different textures. Engaging in water play we learn about the properties of water and exploring cause and effect relationships. We also are exposed to mathematical concepts when such as weight and volume when dealing with water. The children also reached for different objects on the playground to use to fill up from the water.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Toddler Five

Toddler Five explored a bubble activity. They cut the backs out of plastic cups added bubbles to the sensory table. This allowed the children to blow their own bubbles. The children witnessed the cause and effect between the bubbles and the cups. This activity was quite exciting. Sharing experiences with our friends allows us to be able to share in experiences he children also learned to take turns as we took turns watching each child blow their own bubble. Exploring bubbles in different ways defiantly made things more exciting.



Preschool Two

The children in Preschool Two were engaged while working on a Science Rocks activity on if objects sink or float. Before placing the objects into the water, the children were asked to have a small discussion to develop their vocabulary on the topic. During the discussion, the children talked about what made some objects heavier than others. The children then chose different sized and different weighted objects and guessed if they would float or sink. This taught the children how to develop and test hypotheses. As a Math Counts choice, the children then worked together to create a graph to show their learning.



Preschool Three

The children in Preschool Three have been learning about plants for the past month. The children worked with a teacher on a Science Rocks choice where they learned what the function of a stem is. When children explore natural items in the science learning center, such as plants, they learn how to recognize their basic properties. The children then placed celery sticks and flowers into test tubes that were full of different food coloring. Over time, the children experienced the concept of cause and effect by watching how the leaves of the celery and flower changed colors. The children then made a graph of the different foods we eat that comes from different parts of a plant as an Art Smart choice.



Kindergarten Prep

As the summer months approach Toddlers have been going outdoors to explore water play. Sharing in water experiences with friends is great for children's social skills. During the water activity our friends are exploring different textures. Engaging in water play we learn about the properties of water and exploring cause and effect relationships. We also are exposed to mathematical concepts when such as weight and volume when dealing with water. The children also reached for different objects on the playground to use to fill up from the water.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Homegrown Readers

It's never too early to start "growing readers"! Research has shown that children who have a close adult who reads to and with them -- especially in the very early years -- learn language and literacy skills, develop an appreciation of books, and experience stronger family relationships.

Reading with your child can be one of the most rewarding and memorable ways to spend time together. In addition to having lasting effects on cognitive, language, and literacy development, sharing books inspires your child's curiosity and creativity. Cuddling up with a book is an intimate activity that builds strong, loving, lifelong bonds.

A few tips for reading with your child:

- Designate a regular time and place to curl up together with a book. Invite your child to select books but also introduce new stories.
- Before you begin a new book, talk about the title, the cover, the author, and the illustrator. Ask thought-provoking questions about the book. "What do you think this story is about?"
- Understand that young children love to hear the same stories over and over again. Repetition provides a level of comfort and enables children to become the experts on the storyline. Also, it allows them to get familiar with the words, and eventually "read" the book to you.
- Make reading interactive; ask questions such as, "What do you think happens next in the story?" Or "How would you handle this situation?" It's interesting to hear your child's impression of the story.
- Expand your child's horizons. When your child develops a new interest, go to the library and find books on that subject.
- Have fun and be playful! When you read aloud, try to make your voice exciting and dramatic for the different parts of the story.

There is so much multicultural, informative, historical, traditional, silly, experiential, and even futuristic literature for young children these days. Refer to "Bright Horizons Growing Readers" to access family resources, books suggestions, at-home reading activities, and tips on reading aloud.

www.brighthorizons.com/childrenbooks



Education & Development

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learning at Home: Summer Activity

Our Learning at Home ideas offer parents fun ways to extend their child's learning opportunities beyond the classroom to take advantage of teachable moments that naturally emerge from everyday life situations.

Beach in a Bottle – Suitable for Kindergarten, Multi-Age, Preschool, School Age, Toddler, Twos

You will need:

A trip to the beach, lake or creek, and supplies: plastic bottle, super glue, permanent marker, and a label

Directions:

Have your child fill the bottle with sand and water from the beach, along with their favorite sea shells or small pieces of driftwood. Seal the top using super glue (keep the glue out of your child's reach and let the bottle dry before using it with them). Label with the date and location of your outing.



New Parenting Podcast Episode! Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays

We've all been there... the get-out-the-door chaos, the after-work frenzy, those toddler-parent moments when things just seem to go kaboom! Is there a better way? Parenting expert and psychologist Jennifer Gillette says unequivocally... yes.

On this episode of the *Work-Life Equation*, Gillette has the tips, tricks, and strategies to tame the tantrums and put what she calls Peaceful Parenting back into your busy day.

[Ep. 17: Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays](http://www.brighthouse.com/peacefulparenting)
www.brighthouse.com/peacefulparenting