

Bright Horizons at Cranbury News

Spotlight Family



The Patel Family

Hi friends! We are so excited to be featured in this month's newsletter. It has been 6 short months since our son, Aiden moved to Bright Horizons in Ms. Lissette's classroom. He transitioned so well even though we were reluctant how the change would be for him, especially since we had welcomed his baby sister, Mila a few months before. It seems like he has always been a part of the Bright Horizons family and he is already talking about his sister joining him there soon.

Aiden talks about his friends and teachers endlessly at home. He loves to sing and lately we find him singing, "Ants Go Marching" and "Baby Shark" songs all the time. We visited the Please Touch Museum recently and as we were going down the stairs, he started singing "Ants Go Marching." We are at awe in how much he has grown and learned in the last 6 months. He has been visiting Ms. Lisa's classroom and will be moving there soon. When I ask him if he likes Ms. Lisa's classroom, he responds by saying, "Always!" It is amazing to see how he relates things we do at home to school. He will tell me if dinner is similar to something Mr. Val has served him in the past. Aiden has always been a picky eater, but after moving him to Bright Horizons, he is more willing to try new food.

He gets excited to see his friends from school at the Lifetime Fitness gym in Princeton. We are teaching him the concept of giving back and sharing. He loves to play with friends and we are always open to play dates so the fun, laughter, and learning can continue outside of Bright Horizons as well.

Important Dates

September 3rd: Labor Day Center Closed!

September 4th: First Day of School

September 7th: Grandparents Day Celebration at 3:30pm (Grandparents are invited to visit their grandchild's classroom for a special celebration. Please consult your classroom teacher)

September 8th: Cranbury Day Fair (Please visit our table at "Cranbury Day" on Main Street in Cranbury from 9:00am-4:00pm)

September 10th: Teddy Bear Day (Children are invited to bring their teddy bears on this day)

September 11th: Patriot Day (Children are invited to wear Red, White, and Blue in celebration)

September 13th: Wacky Sock Day (Children are encouraged to wear wacky socks today)

September 18th: Lifetouch Portraits (More information to come)

September 21st: International Day of Peace (Look for classroom activities)

September 26th: Curriculum Night from 7:30-8:30 (Parents are invited to come meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum at Bright Horizons)

September 28th: Wear Red Today in Honor of World Heart Day (Children will also discuss heart healthy eating and exercise routines)

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Declan C. | September 9 th |
| Ananya A. | September 10 th |
| Miss Lissette | September 15 th |
| Thomas C. | September 21 st |
| David S. | September 29 th |

Happy Anniversary to...

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Miss Lisa S. | September 8 th 3 Years |
| Miss Natalie | September 27 th 1 Year |

Bright Horizons at Cranbury

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Open Monday through Friday, 7am to 7pm

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infants

As part of our *Math Counts* curriculum, our infants explored nesting boxes. As the children explored, they attempted to fit the smaller boxes into the larger ones. During an activity like this, infants begin to develop their spatial awareness and strengthen their ability to discriminate size differences.



Toddlers

Our toddlers finger painted on bubble wrap as part of an *ArtSmart* activity. They explored the textures of the paint and wrap by spreading the paint around. Later, they stamped their bubble wrap on a piece of paper. During this activity, children learn to investigate the world through their senses and to experiment with and explore color.



Preschool Room 9

Our young preschoolers experimented with different spices including salt, basil, onion powder, cinnamon, and paprika. First the children smelled them, then touched them, and finally tasted them (if they wanted to.) The children discussed which spices they liked and which spices they disliked. During this *Science Rocks* activity, the children learn to experiment with their senses, identify the physical properties of different objects, and question while exploring different materials.



Preschool and School Age Campers

Our campers visited Home Depot in South Brunswick as part of our “Construction” adventure topic. While there, the children made inch worm bookends. The children used hammers to nail their wood pieces together and added dowels to each end. They then painted their bookends using colors of their choice. The children also received their own Home Depot aprons and pins. During this field trip, the children learned to independently use tools to complete a task, express themselves creatively, and strengthen their hand-eye coordination.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Cooking - A Family Affair

Gathering in kitchens nourishes our bodies, minds, and souls. Preparing meals together as a family enhances relationships, invites contribution, and helps children understand basic cooking principles. Also, children develop patience as they discover that delicious food doesn't just magically appear. Although cooking as a family affair is probably not as easy as adults whipping up a quick dinner, with a bit of forethought, more cooks stirring a pot can be fun and has tremendous benefits for everyone involved.

Cooking with children helps them learn about nutrition and hone basic reading, math, and science concepts. Reading recipes and learning kitchen vocabulary expands literacy skills, while counting, measuring, and fractions, foster mathematical thinking. Young chefs learn about chemistry and the physical properties of matter as they mix ingredients and watch them combine, separate, expand, change color, develop scents, and change form.

Research shows that children who help in the kitchen develop healthy eating habits because they tend to eat what they prepare. Below are a few suggestions for toddlers and preschoolers.

Toddlers

Choose simple cooking tasks that match your toddler's skills and attention span.

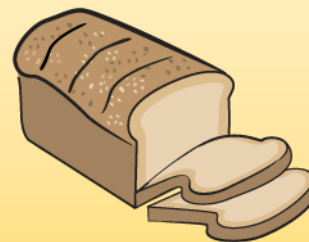
- Wash fruit and vegetables.
- Measure, pour, mix, and stir ingredients.
- Put ingredients in a crockpot or blender.
- Mash potatoes.



Preschoolers

Discuss nutrition and why our bodies and minds need the right kind of fuel to work correctly.

- Help plan meals.
- Chop, grate, peel, and cut ingredients.
- Shuck corn.
- Crack eggs.
- Count and categorize ingredients (wet and dry items).



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learn about the year ahead at Curriculum Night



Ask about our upcoming Curriculum Night event!

September 26th – 7:30pm-8:30pm

During Curriculum Night, you will learn what we have planned for the year ahead for our center's curriculum as well as community center events. Spend time in your child's classroom, ask about the curriculum for their age group, and ask their teacher about future project plans. This event can also be a great time to connect with fellow Bright Horizons families!

Learn about our Bright Horizons educator promises. As Bright Horizons Educators, we promise to...

Nurture and care for the whole child

Craft curriculum based on expert research

Support and develop teachers

Implement an emergent and integrated approach to learning

Cultivate curiosity through projects, exploration, and play

Encourage children to be confident experimenters and problem solvers

Build an inclusive and respectful community

Create joyful places for childhood



Check out all the places you can connect with us!