

Bernice E. Lavin Early Childhood Education Center News

From the Director



Shine a light on food allergies this week by raising awareness and encouraging others to honor **Food Allergy Awareness Week**.

Did you know?

- **15 Million** Americans have Food Allergies
- **1 in 13 kids** have a food allergy
- **25%** of allergic kids will have their **first-ever** reaction at school
- In **20%** of reactions there are no skin symptoms
- Anaphylaxis can look just like a severe asthma attack, without other symptoms
- Be alert, allergic reactions can begin mildly and **quickly** worsen

We will be changing our policy concerning food being brought into the center. Information coming soon.

Together, we can shine a light and educate the public about the serious nature of food allergies!



Important Dates

May 14-18 .. K-Prep Science Week
May 15 Family Partnership Group Meeting
May 24 Infant Movement Matters Fair
May 28 Memorial Day (center closed)
June 8 Kindergarten Graduation
June 11 Start Of School Age Camp

Transitions & Vacations

As you may have noticed, our center can be a very busy place! Due to the current fullness of our center, transitions may be delayed until spaces become available in your child's new unit. As we teach to the individual child, we can assure you that all children will continue to be challenged in their existing classrooms, and that the curriculum will be adapted to their needs. If you have questions about the curriculum in your child's classroom, please contact our program director, Tara, at Tara.Yarbrough@BrightHorizons.com or 312-926-9039, or your child's current Education Coordinator.

If you are going on vacation, please email Bobby at BobbyD@BELECEC.org, so we can schedule our staff appropriately for the summer holidays.

Bernice E. Lavin Early Childhood Education Center

441 E. Ontario | Chicago, IL 60611

(312)926-5437 (926-Kids) | NWESTN@BrightHorizons.com

Monday – Friday 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

The infants are playing with a peg board. They are learning how to place the pegs in the hole. By playing peg boards the infants are developing fine motor skills such as holding and control skills. When infants play with the peg boards they are learning one-to-one correspondence and how to take turns and share with others.



Toddler

Water play fosters learning in all developmental areas. It provides opportunities for children to experiment with math and science concepts, strengthen their physical skills, advance their social and emotional skills, and enhance language development. As children manipulate water play materials, they begin to understand why and how things happen.



Young Preschool

This class is learning about the culture and food of Mexico and what is similar and different from where they live in the USA. They are also learning about different genres of music and are learning to distinguish between genres by playing and making instruments. The children were also able to expand their vocabulary by hearing the songs played in the Spanish language through the day.



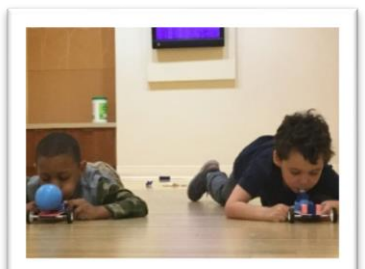
Preschool & Kindergarten Prep

This month's STEM Project Challenge is SOUND. Each preschool classroom was given a question on sound and asked to investigate the concept presented. The D3 young scientists were challenged with the question, "How do sounds make us feel?" The students discussed what they knew about sound and how it affected them when they heard a sound. Some sounds made them feel scared while others made them jump for joy, still others were emergency sounds that made them react and hurry, while other sounds calmed them and put them to sleep. One experiment tried was sound underwater and how the softer sounds made them feel safe. The students wrote about their findings and created a tri-fold presentation board for the Science Fair.



Kindergarten

The kindergarten students are busy preparing for the Annual Science Fair to be held the week of May 14th through the 18th. The experiments highlighted this year from the EI classroom are "Taking Flight" (Planes), "Propelled Energy" (Boats), "Balloon Power" (Cars), "Water Watch" (Filtration), "Yucky Germs!" (Touch), "There's a Fungus Among Us!" (Mold), and "Recycled Paper" (Earth). The students are currently making predictions and testing their hypothesis in the classroom as we speak. It is an exciting time for these young scientists. Parents are invited to be our judges the week of the fair. We hope you will stop by.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Family Fitness Fun

You've heard the statistics: one in five preschoolers is obese and the childhood obesity rate has tripled in the last 30 years. At Bright Horizons®, we're passionate about children's health and we believe this trend can be reversed. In 2011, Bright Horizons joined the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA). As part of our PHA commitment, we're updating physical education training materials for teachers to ensure that children get the physical activity they need every day. We're also producing a host of resources for families. Building better health is as simple as becoming more physically active, one step at a time. Below are a few ideas for easy family fitness.

Start a habit.

Children aren't particularly interested in why fitness is so important. They are interested, though, in fun family time. Establishing habits of physical activity in childhood paves the way for healthy adulthood. So, try to plan at least one physical activity on the weekend. Go for a walk, play at the park, or head to a pool. Think about building physical activity into your schedule at least three times during the week. This can be as simple as throwing a ball around before dinner or playing a quick game of hide and seek. It doesn't have to be lengthy or complicated, but you do need to be intentional about it. Write it into your schedule so it becomes a habit.

Get mobile.

One of the simplest ways to get more exercise is by ditching the car. Walk, bike, or rollerblade to school, the store, the library – anywhere you can. Some areas are more “walk friendly” than others, of course, but try to walk as often as possible.

Work it out.

Family chores are another way to get moving. Raking leaves, weeding a garden, mopping the floor – all these activities get the body moving. Turn on some music and make chores a fun family time. Try to be consistent, as well. When children know that the family will spend an hour every Saturday working together, for example, they're less likely to balk and more likely to see it as a predictable part of their family culture.



Education & Development

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Join us in celebrating our teachers & staff!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member can receive is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make their classrooms a wonderful place for children and families.

Teacher Appreciation Day is May 8th but our teachers, support staff, and leadership team work hard all year long to make your child's experience here the very best it can be. Help us celebrate them all month long!

Your thoughts make a difference – and mean a lot to all of us. Take a moment to share any stories, comments, and well wishes for those who touch your family's life each day.

Visit our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website to leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.

appreciation.brighthorizons.com

