



## BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Argonne Child Development Center

### *Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

Earth Day is an important day set aside to inspire appreciation for and awareness of the earth's environment. As Earth Day approaches, your child may be involved in projects and activities that foster an awareness of and appreciation for the earth's resources. To extend the learning that takes place in your child's center or school and make caring for the earth part of your family culture, we encourage you to make time for some green activities this Earth Day.

- Bike, walk, or use public transportation when possible instead of driving.
- Turn off lights, TVs, and other electronic equipment, when not in use.
- Turn off the water faucet after washing hands or while brushing teeth.
- Take a nature walk: Bring a magnifying glass, an insect and plant manual, and a sketch book. See how many plants, flowers, and bugs you can identify and draw.
- Recycle cardboard, paper, and plastics.
- Draw, paint, and write on recycled paper (and use recycled computer paper for your printer).



Argonne National Laboratory will be holding their annual Earth Day Celebration on Thursday, April 18. Look for more details coming soon!

### FROM THE NURSE

[Tooth Development](#)

[Understanding Fever in Children](#)

#### [PRODUCT RECALLS FROM CPSC](#)

Information regarding recalls issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission

[Please review your home for these items.](#)



[VIDEO CLASSES & WEBINARS  
ON PARENTING TOPICS](#)

### Growing Readers



Title: Most People

Written by Michael Leannah

Illustrated by Jennifer E. Morris

A story of how people from varying backgrounds are kind and do good for one another.

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



## Infants

**Math Counts:** The infants explored a variety of toy vehicles. After seeing the items spread out on the rug they pick out the vehicle they wanted to explore. Holding onto the car, they explored the different shapes and the wheels that spin. Some older infant took an opportunity to roll the vehicle back and forth on the tile. When offered a group of items, infant learn to make selections. Infants will begin to notice similarities (same color, for example) in various objects as they explore.



## Toddlers

**Caring Matters/Toward a Better World:** Toddlers are just beginning to understand how to work with others. While toddlers paint at the easel with the scrub brushes, they work side by side using similar materials. They share and negotiate the use of the space and materials at the easel, allowing their partner to work as well.



## Twos

**Language Works:** The Twos discovered a new book, *The Night World* (Mordicai Gerstein). A boy and his cat explore the world just before sun comes up. Two year olds experience a large vocabulary spurt and reading helps children to learn new words and their meaning. The ability to focus during read aloud times and having a large vocabulary are important skills that are part of the foundation for later reading skills.



## Preschool

**Well Aware:** The preschool class worked to create healthy meals. Using images of various foods, children had to select the items to place on their plate. While working, they discuss with the teachers and each other why they picked certain items and decided if they had made the best choices. Preschool children are beginning to understand the concept of healthy food and start to make their own choices during meals and snacks.



## Kindergarten Prep

**Science Rocks:** The Kindergarten Prep class spent many days exploring wind energy. During one experiment, the children predicted and tested which objects would move across the table using the power of moving air. Children used a straw to attempt to move pennies, paper clips, cotton balls, pens and other small items, by blowing.

## It's all in the Family! Activities to Build Memories

Enjoying family activities is a precious gift to give our children and ourselves. Time with people we love fosters feelings of belonging and intimacy, builds trust, instills a sense of security, and creates lifelong memories. Below are fun, inexpensive activities for all ages:

- ▶ **Gaze at stars:** Explain to children that stars form patterns that we call constellations and then research them online and in books. Go outside on a clear evening and try to identify constellations or have fun making up your own. Draw the formations on paper or lay them out using pipe cleaners and small rocks. With younger children, focus on the shape of the moon.
- ▶ **Visit farmers markets:** An excursion to a farmers market provides an opportunity to smell the scents of fresh produce, enjoy tasty samples of nutritious foods, hear local musicians playing music, and participate in the coming together of the community.
- ▶ **Go for a hike or walk:** Hiking or walking connects family members to nature, as well as each other. On walks, you might take photographs, collect special rocks, leaves, and sticks, or just enjoy the world's natural wonders and time with each other.
- ▶ **Institute a family fitness program:** This could include age/stage-appropriate push-ups, sit-ups, stretching, walking, hopping, skipping, jumping, or jogging. Family members might keep a fitness log, use a pedometer to count steps, or count your heartbeats before and after exercise.
- ▶ **Volunteer:** Have you considered making volunteering part of your family culture? Adults inspire empathy and compassion by volunteering as a family at a soup kitchen, nursing home, homeless shelter, or other local organizations. For activity suggestions browse sites such as Doing Good Together: [doinggoodtogether.org](http://doinggoodtogether.org).
- ▶ **Build a cozy fort:** You might use branches and wood, blankets and chairs, or a giant carton (from an appliance store), to design a cozy den. After you build this comfy place to congregate, your family can cuddle up to read, snack, tell stories, or play games.

All the activities above enhance relationships because family members enjoy simple activities, share rewarding adventures, and make memories.

## Ask About Our Summer Camp Program!

### Join us for a Summer of Fun, Friendships, and Exploration

Through Camp Explorations, our summer camp program at **Bright Horizons®**, your child will have the opportunity to enjoy everything summer has to offer. During action-packed days, your child will experiment with science and technology, engage in the creative arts, discover nature, and explore the world. With experienced teachers, a curriculum based on each child's interests, engaging projects and activities, special visitors, and more, summer will be fun and educational at the same time.

### Camp Explorations Highlights

- ▶ Programs for two different age groups:
  - Preschool Adventures (ages 3 – 5)
  - School-Age Adventures (ages 6 –12)
- ▶ Age-appropriate, engaging themes that incorporate children's interests
- ▶ Field trips, special guests, and daily fitness activities
- ▶ Flexible weekly schedules with full- and part-time options
- ▶ Health, safety, and security policies that meet or exceed local, state, and national standards

## Featured Family Webinar

### Working Moms, Natural Leaders

Whether you're a new mom getting ready to return to work, or you've been a working mom for a while, you might be curious about the expectations — or lack thereof — you'll face in the office. Watch this recording of our webinar, as we discuss results from the **Bright Horizons®** Modern Family Index survey and learn what research says about working motherhood.

**Family Webinar Recording –**  
Working Moms, Natural Leaders  
[brighthorizons.com/webinarWMNL](https://brighthorizons.com/webinarWMNL)



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

