



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Citi Family Center Jacksonville

From the Director

Dear Citi Family Center Families,

To support you while our center remains closed, Citi is now allowing Bright Horizons to offer communications such as this newsletter so you can keep abreast of information and resources to support parents as you continue to care for your child(ren) at home or in other out of home programs until decisions are made about reopening the campus and the center.

Please read through this newsletter for this month's information of interest. If you have a specific question or concern regarding your child's current development and/or care needs please feel free to reach out to me, Elizabeth Powers, Executive Director by email at: Elizabeth.powers@brighthouse.com or by phone at: 904-654-9280. I will do my best to continue to be resource for any Citi parent who has a question or concern related to any number of early childhood issues.

Speaking of resources, one that I would like to be sure all of you are aware of this month is ***The Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign***. This campaign offers families a NEW program designed to support your child's education and development. Their **EduCare** program is designed for families with children from birth to 8 years old and sends personalized text messages with tips and educational information based on your child's age. It also provides 24-7 access to a FREE library of resources including stories, games, activities and other learning and development tools. It is designed to keep families up to date with important wellness information, specific health, growth and learning milestones and is available in English and Spanish. Open to all parents, sign up for this free program at: <https://fglrc.gomoeducare.com>. And remember, Bright Horizons **World at Home** website is always full of great ideas for you too! <https://worldathome.brighthouse.com/>

Till next month!

Elizabeth

Elizabeth A.N. Powers, M.Ed.
Executive Director, Citi Family Center

Important Dates

March 14 – Daylight Savings
"Spring Forward" 1 hour today!

March 20 – First Day of Spring!

March 30 – National Crayon Day!
What wonderful creation will your child draw for you today?

What's Next in Work, Parenting, and Wellness | March 30 at 3:00 p.m. ET

Experts discuss and reflect on parenting and caregiving during the pandemic, providing guidance and insights for the road ahead on three topics important to families: health and safety, work-life integration, and wellness.

Register Today

Reasons to Celebrate

Registration for VPK 2021-2022 is **OPEN!**

VPK – Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten program for 4- and 5-year-olds who were born on or before September 1, 2021 is now open for enrollment. Please go to: <https://www.elcduval.org/voluntary-pre-k/> to complete the parent application today!

Health & Safety at Bright Horizons

While we wait to reopen, learn more about what we are doing to keep children, families, and staff safe. Our enhanced COVID-19 protocols ensure health and safety practices in every center align with the CDC and state and local municipalities.

brighthouse.com/child-health-safety

We are happy to stay connected and support your child's learning while you are safely at home, with guided learning opportunities. Send pictures of your family engaging in World at Home activities for a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter!



Infant

Babies are investigating the sights, sounds, and feels of everything! Share in experiences and activities to delight their senses and support the small but exciting discoveries they are making every day.

Language Works

[Brown Bear Color Hunt](#)



Toddler

Curious toddlers are striving to "do it myself." Engage them in developmentally appropriate activities that support their growing independence, encouraging today's new discoveries and tomorrow's big achievements.

Music

[Seasons Song](#)



Preschool

The last year before kindergarten — when reading, writing, and physical development take off! Open-ended explorations and enriching experiences help refine burgeoning skills and expand on the leaps they have already made.

Math Counts

[Build a Dwelling](#)



School-Age

Learning at this age is speeding ahead — and not just in academics, but social skills, self-confidence, and more. Enjoy this new stage with your child, with activities to challenge, engage, and show them just how far they can go.

STEM

[Apple Sensory Game](#)

Tips for Encouraging Play

“Play offers children opportunities to explore and practice concepts, to research and test ideas without worrying about a right or wrong answer, and to learn about others and themselves. Most importantly, play provides meaningful and integrated experiences that nurture whole-child growth and development.” - Rachel Robertson - VP, Education and Development

1. Allow your child to direct what and how to play, even if the purpose or objective of the play is not immediately obvious. Play is at its richest when children are in charge.
2. Encourage some safe risk taking, e.g. climbing a tree or jumping on a play structure. Children gain confidence and learn to think independently with these experiences.
3. Allow children open-ended, unscheduled time to play. You can also ask open-ended questions, such as “What do you think?” “I wonder what sound that will make?”
4. Read a variety of rich, engaging books to children, which can give them ideas for their pretend play.

Celebrate International Women’s Day with Us!

Throughout March, we are sharing the voices of young children — our future leaders. What’s your daughter’s superpower? Who are your son’s female role models?

Growing Readers Review: Feb

February’s Growing Readers books might make you giggle, sigh, think deeply, or even shed a tear or two. Each month, we share a Book of Excellence, other age-specific notable books, storytelling tips, and ideas for extending the learning at home.

Access the latest issue [here](#).



**Looking for a great summer program?
Check out Bright Horizons @ the Avenues!**

Because Citi is not yet ready to bring people back to campus, and camp programs fill fast, I wanted to get let you know that you can get ready for a summer full of adventure with Summer Explorations at our **Bright Horizons® at the Avenues** location. Their PS & KP summer programs offer plenty of time to experiment with science and technology, engage in the creative arts, discover nature, and explore the world. With a curriculum based on each child’s interests, engaging projects and activities, and virtual field trips and events summer will be both fun and educational.

Call 904-519-8560 for enrollment information.

Nature Burst

Let’s all sprout like a flower, dance like the wind, and make noise like a storm! Join Mr. Nate, one of our Bright Horizons virtual enrichment teachers, for a fun Nature Burst movement activity designed to support developing muscle movement coordination and large muscle movement in your home from our friends at BOKS – a Reebok initiative.

[Watch the video](#) and listen to Mr. Nate as he names different things found in nature and then move like those things! Learn more about BOKS at boksids.org.

**MOVEMENT MATTERS
SPOTLIGHT**

powered by **boks**

