



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Clever Kids Learning Center

From the Director

Bright Horizons currently has an Emergency Hotline system that is being revamped. This change should be completed around September 9, 2019. When you enrolled your child in our program, you were given a set of resource cards with a hotline number, as well as the primary and secondary evacuation locations for our center. This Hotline is intended to provide families with information in case of extreme situations involving a specific Bright Horizons program or the general community that may impact phone lines and other normal means of communication with the center or school, or may require the evacuation of people from the building. Examples of such sudden and severe emergency situations include storms, broad-based power outages, fires, or other unpredictable emergencies. Callers to the Hotline will hear a recorded message with the most current information available on the status of their center or school and may be connected with an Emergency Management Operator for further information at any time. I just want you to be on the lookout for a new resource card during the middle of September.

Looking forward into October, I want you to mark your calendar for October 2nd & 3rd because Memory Concepts will be here to take school photos. We will set up in the Preschool I classroom. Photos begin at 7:00 A.M. but we will not take everyone at 7:00. Please be sure to have your child here by 9:30 a.m. to be included in the photo sessions. The usual routine is that I go and takes a few children at a time from each of the classrooms, to eliminate lengthy waits near the camera. Sara will ensure that your child's hair will be brushed and your child's face will be clean.

Infant and Toddler classrooms will be with the sibling sets on Wednesday, October 2nd. The preschool wing will be on Thursday, October 3rd. Furthermore, Sara still offers family portraits without a sitting fee. If you are interested in taking photos please let me know which day/time works best.

Dates of Closure for 2019

- Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 – Federal Observance of Christmas

Classroom Events

- Sept. 6th – Infant 1: Read a Book Parent Party 3:30 – 4:30
- Sept. 20th – Preschool East: Parent Party 3:30 - 4:30



Toddler 2

Benefits of Children Gardening with Adults

Young children learn best through play. Make gardening a fun learning experience for both adults and children. Let your child get their hands dirty by turning the soil, planting seeds, seedlings, or at this time of year, bulbs! Let them water using a small watering can or by using the garden hose. Talk to your child about the colors and scents they may see or smell. Talk about math and science concepts as you are planting. “Put one seed or bulb in this hole.” Ask your child what they think might happen to the seed or bulb. Children will make their own hypotheses and will want to monitor the progress of their seeds daily. Gardening is a great way to help children learn to care and be responsible. It also can help those picky eaters to have pride in what they’ve grown and want to try and eat their harvest.



Preschool West

Last month the Preschool West class decided to learn about the ocean after reading a book about a fish. First, we learned that there are several oceans on our planet as we sang there are five oceans. Then it was all about ocean animals. Many books were read on the subject to build language skills. In our dramatic play center, there was a cardboard ship and a beach background that set the stage for many adventures! This was a big project that everyone contributed to for a week. As the children created ocean animals, those were added in as well as other props to provide a variety of choices so their imaginations could expand as they sailed off into the ocean!



Science rocks took a close look at a fish so the children could use their senses to investigate the parts of a fish! Some of the kids were really interested while others chose to pass on this activity.



As the season changes so does our classroom. Our graduates have headed off to kindergarten as new preschoolers join us. There will be activities that will build a strong classroom as we get to know our new friends. More structured activities will be encouraged for older children as they prepare for kindergarten next fall.

Ms. Nikki and Ms. Evelyn

Early Literacy at Bright Horizons

At **Bright Horizons**[®], we believe that early literacy and language development — including reading, writing, and oral/receptive language (speaking, listening, and understanding) — are the foundation for cognitive growth, as well as a primary way children build relationships and connections. Language Works, our comprehensive literacy and language approach, is based on current research on how children learn to read and write. Our approach is consistent with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the International Reading Association's position that early literacy development is an “emerging set of relationships between reading and writing...embedded in a larger developing system of oral communication.”

According to NAEYC, there are at least three critical components of early literacy learning:

- ▶ Oral language comprehension (spoken words).
- ▶ Phonological awareness — the understanding that sounds can be manipulated to make letters and words.
- ▶ Print awareness — the knowledge that print is a written form of communication.

Additionally, NAEYC suggests that a child's motivation and desire to read books, communicate, and gain knowledge through literacy are just as important as skills development. In other words, early literacy success is dependent upon a combination of cognitive skills and positive dispositions.

Early literacy begins long before a child enters preschool or kindergarten. Young babies learn that communication is a way to connect, find comfort, and express needs. Toddlers and twos begin to share their ideas. Preschoolers understand that the written word is just one more tool for communicating through reading and writing.

We want children to leave our programs with a deep love for rich conversations, engaging stories, and enjoyable writing experiences, and we understand that early literacy is more than merely reciting the ABCs. We achieve these goals through daily interactions, projects, and activities. Children talk informally with each other and teachers throughout the day. They make written plans, graphs, and charts during group time activities. They hear and read stories, often reading them several times, discussing the characters and plot, and acting the stories out. These are just a few of the ways teachers build emerging literacy and writing skills in our centers and schools.

Fun, Low-Cost Outdoor Activities for Kids

Below are a few suggestions for fun family activities that can be done outdoors:

Plan a weekly neighborhood walk or hike. Toddlers are at a vantage point to observe things that we adults often miss. A simple walk around the neighborhood with the family can open a whole world to them if we simply slow down. Make time to explore with toddlers, keeping in mind the journey, not the destination. How many plants and insects can you find? How many different textures or sensations can you discover?

Explore pond life. With older children, you can get an up-close view of a local pond. Cut the ends off a large food container or plastic milk jug, and secure plastic wrap over one end with a rubber band or waterproof tape. Place the wrapped end of the container in a stream or pond. Look into the other end. The glare of the sun is diminished when looking through the container, so it's easier to see plant and animal life in the water.

Nurture your family with nature. Visit farms, forests, and wildlife preserves, as well as local parks, streams, lakes, woods, and community gardens. Use magnifying glasses to search for tiny insects, cameras to photograph the sights you see, and tape measures to measure the circumference of trees or the heights of plants. Look for pictures in the clouds or watch stars at night.



The Work-Life Equation

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Listen to the Bright Horizons Work-Life Equation for information on parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life.

Featured Podcast Episode Summer's Over! Back to School

New classes...crazy morning routine...making lunch — the kids are finally back in school, and yet, life seems more complicated than ever. Can you manage it gracefully? Our guest Christine Koh says: sort of. Listen to hear her tips for embracing the important stuff, jettisoning the rest, and enlisting the whole family (even kindergarteners!) for help.

Episode 21: Summer's Over! Back to School

www.brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEpi22

You can listen to this episode on the [Bright Horizons website](http://www.brighthorizons.com), [Apple](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Google](#), and [Stitcher](#).

Bright Horizons at Clever Kids Learning Center

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Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

