

News from Clever Kids Learning Center

From the Director

For those families staying past August, you will be receiving a card titled Ready to Respond. This card is completed with information to be used as a resource in case of a severe emergency involving the evacuation of Clever Kids. The section I want to clarify is the listing of primary and secondary evacuation locations. The primary evacuation site is the Wellness Center, Building 75, located here inside the Denver Federal Center. It is just north & then west of our building, across the intersection of 7th & Center. The secondary location is the Green Mountain Presbyterian Church located at 12900 W Alameda Parkway in Lakewood. The church is west of the Federal Center and sits on the south side of Alameda. The secondary location would be used in dire emergencies when it would be unsafe to remain in the Federal Center. The church has been our secondary site for several years and has a very large space to accommodate the children & staff safely. In the case of any evacuation, contact numbers for every child would be taken with us & we would begin calling parents to come for the children. The hotline number for Bright Horizons would also have updated info as we provide it to them.

The Ready to Respond procedures & the Occupant Emergency Plan for GSA are reviewed annually. We have never needed to use them, but we have practiced evacuations to the Wellness Center over many years. Please be sure to take this as a reminder to update your emergency contact info within the Bright Horizons' system so we can reach you if a situation occurs.

Dates of Closure for 2018

- Sept. 3rd – Labor Day
- Oct. 8th – Columbus Day
- Nov. 12th – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 22nd and 23rd – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25th – Federal Observance of Christmas

Special Events

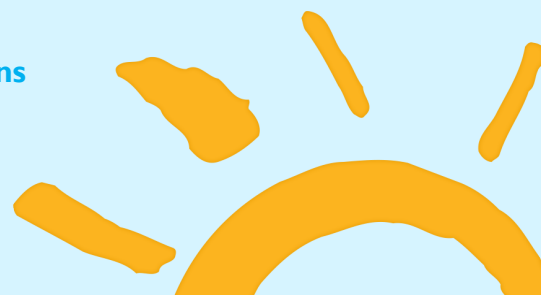
- Tuesday, August 7 – Infant 2 Stroller Ride Parent Party 3:15
- Tuesday, August 7 – Preschool 1 Splash Party with Parents 3:00-4:00
- Friday, August 24 – Preschool North Parent Party 3:15 – 4:15

Clever Kids Learning Center managed by Bright Horizons

Building 64 Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO, 80225

303-236-9400 | www.brighthorizons.com

Monday – Friday, 6:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant 2

Summer is a great time for baby scientists to explore the world. As they investigate mostly with their eyes, mouths, and their entire bodies, the outside is their laboratory. Laying babies on their backs allows them to see the color of the sky, moving clouds, flying butterflies, or moving shadows. They can feel the warmth of the sun or gentle breeze. They hear people's voices, chirping of the birds, or the sound of an airplane above.

Mobile infants find many opportunities to pull themselves up, crawl, and climb up on, around, or over. The outdoor world is full of things for them to explore: water, sand, rocks, insects and other babies. They use their fine motor skills to fill and dump the sand, do water play, or feel the blades of grass.

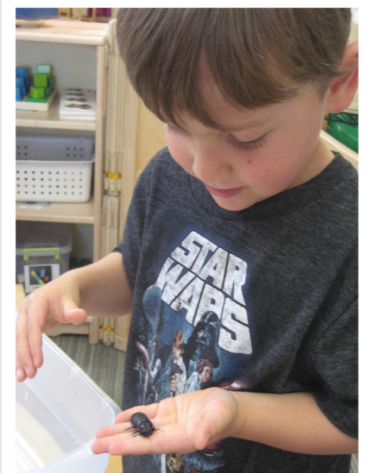
We will continue to provide our infants with the wonder of nature, weather permitting, throughout the year.



Preschool West

The children in preschool west have been enjoying the summer weather. This has provided many opportunities to follow their lead in bug curiosity. Our unit on entomology kept the kids looking for bugs inside and out. In science rocks the children took a close look at beetles. Some looked from afar while others examined closely and referred to them as "cute little buddies!" While observing the children our lessons lead to new vocabulary like prey, predators, camouflage and the most exciting exoskeleton! These concepts were very apparent when looking at these insects. For language works we enjoyed the book "Bug Zoo" which lead to a discussion on how insects will die if we keep them. The children made a bug jar with a plastic jumping bug (which was ok to keep). After the story "The Giant Jam Sandwich" the class made their own giant jam sandwich! The children also made many insects like ladybugs, bees, dragonflies, butterflies and fireflies with a light-up abdomen! Making sure that they all had 6 legs, 4 wings and 2 anteni was easy to remember because we sang "head, thorax, abdomen." Thursday provided a cool down with splash day and often popsicles!

As summer starts to come to an end we would like to thank all the families who have been on our Westies team. We have enjoyed our time together and wish you all the best in the years to come!



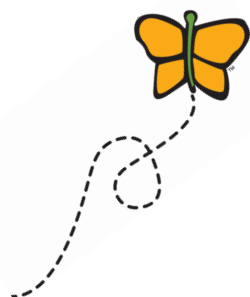
READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Is Your Child Begging for a Pet? Alternatives to Dogs and Cats

Thoughts of snuggling with kittens and tumbling with puppies make many of us want to bring home a zoo. But then we face reality. How long will the pet be alone every day? Can we afford the cost of food and care? Can the adults in the family deal with one more thing?

All pets require attention and care; however, some pets need less maintenance than cats, dogs, or rabbits. Before considering bringing a pet into your home, learn about its habitat and needs. Also consider the ages, abilities, interests, and schedules of family members.

Below are a few ideas for lower maintenance (not no maintenance) pets:



- Birds are social and live predominantly in cages. Many species talk and sing!
- Geckos and lizards are low-maintenance and interesting, but they may not be a good pet for young children because they eat live crickets and require very gentle handling.
- Fish are fun to learn about, watch, and name. Tanks come with lids, which protect them from toddlers.
- Hamsters and gerbils can be cuddly, playful, and amusing; however, they often have short lifespans.

If your child is asking for a pet, explain the reasons you need to say “no.” Starting by discussing what’s involved in caring for a pet teaches children valuable lessons about planning and being purposeful. Also, there are positive aspects to learning how to deal with disappointment.

In homes where children grow up happily without pets, family animal lovers can still experience the joy of bonding with and caring for animals by volunteering at a local human society, pet sitting for friends and family, or walking dogs for neighbors.

Bright Horizons Teachers Can Get Their Degree for Free!

Our teachers provide a great education to your children every day and they deserve that same gift in return. We are proud to offer our teachers the best benefits in our industry so they can build a career with Bright Horizons while they continue their education.

On July 11 we launched the **Bright Horizons Early Education Degree Achievement Plan**. Through this new benefit, all full-time employees in Bright Horizons centers and schools are now eligible to earn their associate and bachelor’s degrees in early childhood education completely free with no-out of pocket costs.

Employees are eligible to start on their first day of employment with Bright Horizons. Hundreds of teachers have already signed up to start the program this fall.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

A Message from Stephen Kramer, Bright Horizons CEO

Bright Horizons Families—

Two weeks ago I wrote to you after my visit to McAllen, Texas to see how the Bright Horizons family could provide support in the face of the heartbreaking crisis unfolding at our southern border. Since then we raised \$25,000 through the generosity of our employees and parents in our centers, and mobilized a Bright Space in record time. I'm thrilled to announce that the Humanitarian Respite Center Restoring Dignity Bright Space officially opened last Thursday.

The new space provides a warm welcome for the hundreds of babies, young children, and teens who come through the facility each week. While their parents get legal advice, clothing and supplies, these children now have a place to play, read, interact with caring volunteers and to just be children.

I had some idea of what this Bright Space could be and the joy it could bring to so many children who really need it. The reality is better than anything I could have imagined. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your incredible generosity and support. This Bright Space would not be possible with it.

With gratitude,

Stephen

