

Bright Horizons at Cranbury News

Spotlight Family



The Patel Family

We are the Patel Family, Rucha-Shay-Vivek Patel (RSVP☺), and our son Shay has been attending Bright Horizons Cranbury since he was 7 months old. We love to travel, dance & spend a lot of time with family. Shay is a party animal! He will be starting Kindergarten soon and will sadly be leaving BH.

As Shay's uncle says, "A huge shout out to the teachers who have endured, all while molding this tiny little tot into an amazing little boy who loves, cares, and shares, and for laying down a solid foundation of good morals and principles, for him to become an even better person as he succeeds in life."

Shay's grandparents from India say, "I have vivid memories of Good Mornings n Have a good Day- from teachers, whenever I used to drop n pick up Shay at his school. The atmosphere was always so vibrant. A big Thank You to all teachers for molding little ones into smart kids- to face life on even terms."

As his parents, we would like to thank each & every one for taking such good care of Shay and making him what he is today. We are so proud of what he has learned, the exposure he has gotten and the confidence he has today, to be able to face a new chapter in his life in a couple of months-Kindergarten ! Couldn't have done it without the BH family.

Sincerely,

Rucha – Vivek Patel

Important Dates

Please consult your Summer Camp calendars for more specific activities such as spirit days, sprinkler days, special guests, and field trips

July 4th: Center Closed: Happy 4th of July!

July 11th: Family Partner Group Meeting at 4:00pm (This month's topic is on the "Growing World of Toddlers" presented by Miss Lisa L. Please RSVP if you will be attending)

July 19th: Family Game Night from 4:30pm to 6:00pm (All families are invited to attend. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.)

July 26th: Bubble Party at 10:00am (We will be having an outdoor bubble dance party presented by Ultimate Sounds Entertainment)

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

Vihaan A.	July 1 st
Sahana G.	July 2 nd
Laila N.	July 14 th
Miss Lisa L.	July 18 th
Kevin T.	July 18 th
Isha C.	July 21 st
Bailey S.	July 22 nd
Aanay P.	July 24 th
Lyana F.	July 29 th

Bright Horizons at Cranbury

2557 Route 130 South, Cranbury, NJ, 08512

609.655.7780 | cranbury@brighthorizons.com

Open Monday through Friday, 7am to 7pm

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

As part of our *Science Rocks* curriculum, our infants explored a “sticky wall” made out of contact paper and tape. The infants used their hands to feel the stickiness and used objects such as pipe cleaners to try to stick to the wall. During this activity, they learn to use their senses to explore the properties of an object and to purposefully use items in varied ways.



Toddlers and Twos

Our toddlers and twos examined and explored real avocados! While exploring, they tried to describe the texture, smell, taste, and looks. They then used their avocados to make guacamole. They used tools to help scoop and mash the avocado and then added more ingredients. During this *Well Aware* activity, the children learn to understand and identify healthy foods and where they come from and verbally express likes and dislikes related to foods.



Young Preschool

During *Math Counts*, our young preschoolers learned about measuring weight. They used a balancing scale and various items to examine and describe how the scale moves in response to more or less weight. During this activity, the children begin to understand geometry and measurement concepts such as more/less, higher/lower, and lighter/heavier. They also expand their mathematical vocabulary.



Kindergarten Prep and Kindergarten

Our *Toward a Better World* curriculum teaches children to become caring, active citizens that give back to the communities in which they live. Our kindergarten prep and kindergarten children took a special field trip in June to the South Brunswick Senior Center. While there, the children played parachute games, listened to music, and heard stories read by some of the seniors. During this community service activity, the children learned to practice acceptance and appreciation of others and demonstrate cooperative and moral development.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Family Traditions Celebrate Life!

Regardless of the size of your family, traditions are a meaningful way to create cohesiveness, forge fond memories, and celebrate life. Meg Cox, the author of *The Book of New Family Traditions*, defines family traditions as “any activity you purposefully repeat together as a family that includes heightened attentiveness and something extra that lifts it above the ordinary ruts.”

Many of us smile when we think about our childhood traditions. We might remember Sunday afternoon walks, game or movie nights, holiday preparations, special family hugs, or a secret family handshake. Often the activity is secondary; it's the being together and sharing a custom that lives in our hearts.

Below are a few ideas for fun family traditions that you can start this year.

Commemorate a special day by planting a tree.

Be it Thanksgiving, Earth Day, or to celebrate a holiday, planting a tree together connects us to nature, and produces an everlasting keepsake. Think of the library you can create by videoing and discussing the experience.

Designate a game night.

A weekly game night brings everyone together for relaxed fun. Game suggestions include Apples to Apples Junior; Don't Wake Daddy; Bingo; Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat; and Guess Who? You might play action games, such as Charades, Twister, Hide and Seek, and Freeze Tag.

Compose family newsletters.

Rather than adults writing an annual letter, all family members can participate by talking about their year. Young children might depict their news by drawing, painting, and taking photographs.

Connect with residents in a nursing home.

Developing a relationship with people in a nursing home enriches the lives of the residents, makes your family feel good, and helps raise children with grateful hearts. Perhaps plan monthly visits and share stories, make cards, bake treats, or simply sit and hold someone's hand.

As you plan the tradition, eliminate distractions, and reserve the time as you would any meaningful activity. Remember that family traditions are about enjoying time together. As Michael J. Fox says, “Family is not an important thing. It's everything.”

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

Need help taming your child's tantrums? Turn those parenting lemons into lemonade!

It might not seem like it, but your child is more predictable than you think—and each stage of your child's development, along with every meltdown, is a gateway to skill-building for your little one.

Hear from early childhood experts Ellen Galinsky, the Chief Science Officer at the Bezos Family Foundation and Executive Director at Mind in the Making, and Rachel Robertson, the Education and Development Vice President at Bright Horizons, as they discuss common parenting challenges and the science behind parenting that can turn frustration into great skills for life.

You can subscribe to the Bright Horizons Family Matters Podcast through iTunes, Google Play Music, SoundCloud, Stitcher Radio, and RSS. Learn more by visiting the link below.



Podcast: Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

brighthouse.com/lemonstolemonade



Check out all the places you can connect with us!