

BRIGHT HORIZONS AT USAA Child Development Center

From the Director

“Summer, summer, summertime. Time to sit back and unwind. Summertime.” - Will Smith

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood recently shared The PLAYbook: Learning Through Play for Colorado’s Families and Caregivers, a resource to families and early childhood professionals. See the below for more information and download your copy!

The PLAYbook describes a child’s learning and development from birth to 5 years old and provides practical tips and fun activities that anyone can use to support young children’s healthy development.

To learn more, view The PLAYbook.

English: bit.ly/PLAYBook

Spanish: bit.ly/ManualDeJuegos

Berry and Yogurt Popsicles

Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and sliced bananas
- 2 cups plain Greek Yogurt
- ¼ cup sugar

Directions: Place all ingredients into a blender, and blend until fruit is smooth. Fill popsicle cups with mixture and cover. Freeze for at least 5 hours



Important Dates

6/8: Bright Horizons Regional Manager and Divisional Vice President

6/11: Mary’s 3rd Anniversary!

6/21-6/25: Spirit Week

6/21: The 50’s

6/22: The 60’s

6/23: The 70’s

6/24: The 80’s

6/25: The 90’s

Reasons to Celebrate

6/23: Presley turns 3!

Health & Safety at Bright Horizons

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

brighthorizons.com/health-safety

Infant

Science Rocks when the infants explore the textured balls in the climbing structure. Denali and Everette played beside each other in the ball pit. Everette found a yellow spiked ball and showed it to Denali. Denali reached up to feel it. When the infants begin to actively explore materials in their environment, **they learn to** use their senses to explore the properties of an object. **They learn it by** using safe toys and materials with varied textures, smells, tastes, and sounds.

Toddler

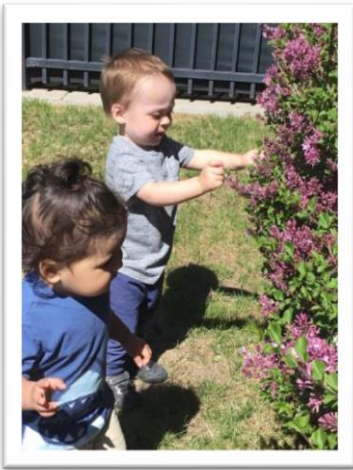
Science Rocks when the toddlers explore on the playground. Recently, the toddlers have noticed the flowers are blooming on the lilac bushes. Kaiden and Marley pulled some of the leaves and buds off and brought them to Ms. Rosie. Ms. Rosie helped give Kaiden and Marley descriptive words about the items they pulled from the bushes. When the toddlers investigate properties, **they learn to** identify physical properties, such as shape and color. **They learn it by** exploring natural items on the playground such as pinecones, leaves, flower buds, and rocks.

Transition

Language Works when the two year olds pick their favorite book to “read” before lunch time. After cleaning up from center exploration every day, the two year olds take some time calm down and read. Lincoln was excited to find a “Pete” book. Liam found his favorite “Night Gorilla.” When the two year olds participate in pre-reading activities, **they learn to** develop preferences for familiar books and stories. **They learn it by** exploring books quietly on our own.

Preschool A

Our *Caring Matters* curriculum guides the classroom experience to promote the use of positive language with peers, to continue to develop social-emotional skills, and to receive positive guidance that helps children foster the ability to initiate interactions. Presley and Oliver have been friends since they were in the infant classroom. They can often be found building castles, reading stories, or exploring the magna-tiles. When the preschoolers continue to develop nurturing relationships, **they learn to** play with one or two preferred playmates’. **They learn it by** building with blocks, playing outdoors, or engaging in other activities with one or two peers.



Discoveries Project Challenges

Discoveries brings the famous Smithsonian® right into our Bright Horizons® classrooms! This exciting collaboration will give children a window into history, their world, and the greater universe around them — all without leaving our center.

All Discoveries — Collections, Music and Sound, Buildings and Construction, and Self-Identity — are set up as project challenges that use artifacts and resources from the renowned Smithsonian® collection as conversation starters.

Each project challenge is an interactive, hands-on way for children to explore new ideas, develop an understanding of the world around them, and make way for personal innovation.

Be on the lookout to see Discoveries in action in your child's classroom!



New Podcast Episode: The Year of Learning Loss

How has the pandemic affected children's learning? Are they behind? What can we do about learning loss? For over a year, child care and school have felt anything but normal — and if you're a parent concerned about learning loss, you're not alone. But according to early education experts (and parents!) Rachel Robertson and Claire Goss, we need to think about it differently.

On this episode of Teach. Play. Love. Hear about some of the gains children have made throughout the pandemic, and find out how to approach educational opportunities this summer.

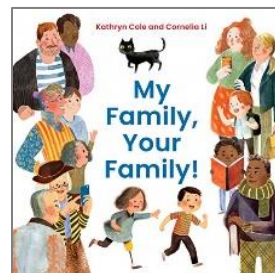
Listen [here](#) and subscribe!

Tips for Encouraging Positive Risk Taking

“For healthy development, children need to take positive risks. Positive risks (different from dangerous or hazardous risks) allow children to step out of their comfort zone, try new things, increase confidence, make mistakes, and learn from those mistakes. Growth and learning doesn't come without some risk.” - Rachel Robertson - VP, Education and Development

1. **Consider your child.** When it comes to physical development, consider your child's level of mastery. What might be completely appropriate for one child might not be for another child.
2. **Start small.** Breaking activities down by skill can bridge the gap between too little and too much freedom. For example, before you allow your children to climb a tall tree, they can practice climbing on a playground structure.
3. **Protect play.** Allow time each day for free, open-ended play where children can build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills on their own.

NEW Growing Readers Book Club



Every month, become Mr. Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!

June's Book of Excellence, *My Family, Your Family* by Kathryn Cole, explores all different types of families.

[Access the current issue here.](#)

Update to the My Bright Day App

A new update to the My Bright Day app will allow parents to receive biweekly, age-based notifications from the Bright Horizons® Education and Development Department.

These notifications, called “My Bright Journey Insights”, will contain short messages to help you learn insights about your child's developmental stage. Watch your My Bright Day notifications to learn more.

