



### From the Center Director

Trending this month is Science Rocks and Re-registration!

Greetings and happy Friday!

Registration is upon us and Samantha's looking forward to sitting down with you the last two weeks of March to discuss your future plans with the center.

This year's re-registration process will be a bit different. You will complete a re-registration form, complete a new enrollment agreement and also review your child's file with Samantha. Please allow fifteen minutes of your time to be devoted to re-registration. Samantha will be available to meet with you during the following times on the following days: 9:00 am-4:30 pm on March 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

Also during the month of March, you can expect to see several activities involving critical thinking from all children in our program. From infants to K-Prep, we will explore facets of science.

Science Rocks is more than a science curriculum; it is an attitude of inquiry that inhabits everyone in the classroom. From the infant who is just noticing shadows on the floor to the kindergartner measuring the length of that shadow at different times of day, making sense of the world is the job of childhood. Both children and faculty become researchers and problem solvers. The National Science Foundation lists one of the primary goals of science teachers as the development of an environment of inquiry, not just the teaching of facts. As technology and our knowledge base have exploded, our society's demands for educating children have changed. To be ready for our rapidly changing world, future generations require different skills. The ability to access knowledge through technology and to think critically about how to use the information becomes more important than rote memorization of facts. Science Rocks is as much about process as content. Science Rocks includes science learning centers rich in opportunities for children to hypothesize, gather data, experiment, form conclusions, and make representations of the results. Physics, chemistry, technology, biology, anthropology, paleontology, and geology are all aspects of the early childhood curriculum as children explore their environment—only we don't always use those names. But don't despair! Teachers do not have to know all the answers; they just have to help form the questions. Practicing these concepts allows children to construct their knowledge of the world based on their own experience. Practice also promotes "scientific habits of mind." The teacher's job becomes structuring the children's experience and knowing what content is developmentally appropriate for each individual child.

Our very own K-Prep children and their parents will conduct their STEM activity to their classmates and the preschool children. What's unique about our STEM fair is that the parents and child will participate together and share their findings together. We are thrilled to be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Stem Fair! We hope you can take the time to stop by during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>nd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> to see all the wonderful "thinking outside the box" from our K-Prep friends.

*Jacqueline Radcliffe*

## BRIGHT HORIZONS at the Harbor

### Important Dates



**March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Seuss's Birthday**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>: Pancake Day**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>: Home Depot Visiting  
Preschool & K-Prep**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>: Tasting of the Greens**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>:  
STEM Fair**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Re-  
Registration**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>: April Tuition due**

### Reasons to Celebrate



**William**

**Sabina**

**Owen**

**Ms. Alisa**

**Dhillon**

**Aris**

**Ms. Jubelle**

## Embarrassing Moments: Opportunities to Learn

There are times when our bright, curious children cause us to cringe by their comments or questions. “Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?” “Why is her skin dark?” “Where are his legs?”

In these moments, we often feel embarrassed and helpless. Our sweet young children, who we raise in an atmosphere of respect, acceptance, and kindness, might innocently offend someone ...and we’re speechless.

Young children are curious and still learning about the world; they don’t mean to be hurtful or malicious. Many adults are inclined to explain and have children apologize, but this can embarrass both the children and the recipient. In this situation, it’s best to validate what a child is observing and turn it into a learning opportunity.

**Below are a few examples of common questions and helpful responses.**

### “That man has no legs!”

- ▶ Calmly and matter-of-factly explain that we all have different bodies and abilities. Then when your child asks, “Why doesn’t he have legs?” You might say, “I’m not sure, perhaps he was born that way.” Then you might ask, “How do you think someone would get around if they didn’t have legs?”

### “Why is her skin dark?”

- ▶ This is an opportunity to explain that everyone is unique and to talk about different types and colors of hair skin and eyes. When you get home, you might show your children an array of colored apples and cut them open to see that they’re all the same color inside.

### “Is there a baby in that man’s tummy?”

- ▶ A simple, honest response is, “Men can’t have babies in their tummies. Only women can.” A child further inquiring, “then why is he so fat?” opens the door for adults to let children know that people come in all sizes and shapes; we all have different body types.

How adults handle situations in the moment matters, but equally important is turning these moments into learning opportunities. After the event, explain to your child that sometimes things we say can unintentionally hurt people’s feelings.

Use your child’s comment as a springboard to discuss diversity, emotions, and the impact of words. Explain that all questions are welcome, but it’s a good idea to check with the adults before commenting to strangers.

## You're invited to Our Open House!

April 8-12 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Next month, we will be hosting an Open House Week where new families will be able to discover why Bright Horizons is the perfect place for children to learn, explore, and grow!

Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them. Please see your Center Director for details. We hope to see everyone at Open House Week!



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Parenting Advice for the  
Early Years

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## Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

### Teach. Play. Love. Parenting Advice for the Early Years

Technology is everywhere. As adults, we rely on it constantly. And for kids, it provides great value, as long as it's used in the "right" way. But what does that mean, exactly?

Debbie Hoppy, curriculum director at Bright Horizons, and Rachel Robertson, VP of education and development, share what really matters: interactive experiences and co-exploration, questions that encourage deeper thinking, and opportunities for integrating technology into the real world.

#### Ep. 1: The Digital Dilemma

[brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep1](http://brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep1)

### Bright Horizons at the Harbor

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Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

