



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT  
USAA CDC San Antonio

## January Birthdays!

### Look who's turning ONE!

Madison  
Timothy  
Nolberto  
Jacob

### Look who's turning TWO!

Adam  
Isabella  
Elliot  
Aubree  
Benjamin

### Look who's turning FOUR!

Caleb  
Cameron  
Colton  
Naren  
Annika

### Look who's turning FIVE!

Maksim  
Emma  
Jaden  
Willie  
Alvin



## Important Dates

### January 1

New Year's Day Center Closed

### January 7-11

Diversity Activity Week

(classroom activities)

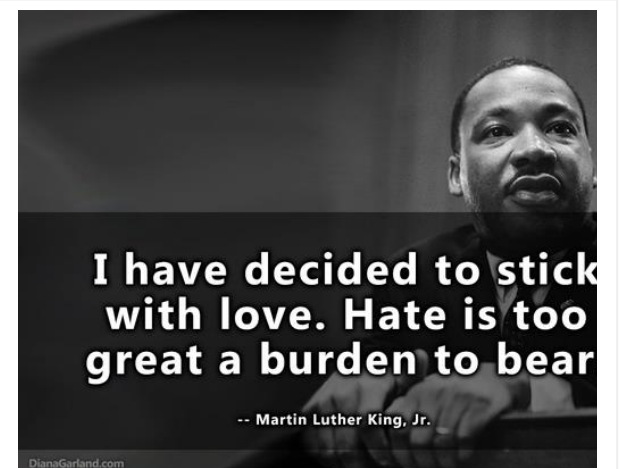
### January 15

Family Partnership Group (WebEx)

12:00 pm-1:00 pm

### January 21

USAA Child Development Center Honors  
MLK Day; School Age Care Available





During this month, classroom A1 will be focusing on Toward a Better World. This part of our curriculum encourages our infants to gain an awareness of themselves and others as they engage in their natural world. Some experiences to look forward to are creating photo collages and family boxes. We will also be engaging the infants in learning parts of their body through songs and finger play. Songs they will be singing are, "Where is the baby's nose?" and "If you're happy and you know it touch your head..." Classroom A2 will be focusing on Science Rocks. For our smaller infants, science is not found in elaborate experiments but rather in real word and everyday moments as they manipulate objects and explore their senses. For our older infants, the teachers will be taking science to another level in having more elaborate experiences like making a volcano, hot and cold, and tornado bottles. Classroom A3 will be focusing on Well Aware. This part of our curriculum encourages our infants to learn how to develop an awareness of their bodily powers as they learn how to roll over or get onto their hands and knees. The teachers will also be integrating experiences that will enhance their mathematical concepts with exploring different colors and shapes. Classroom A4 will be focusing on small muscle growth with a focus on practicing self-help skills. These skills are an important part of an infant's development because they learn and begin to grasp items that are of interest to them. This helps an infant learn how to investigate with their senses and manipulate the object. The teachers will also be encouraging the older infants to use their fine motor skills to eat with a spoon during lunch time. Classroom A5 and A6 will be focusing on Well Aware. The teachers will be focusing on encouraging the children to build their gross motor skills by placing the small infants on tummy time. Doing this in short spans of time throughout the day strengthens their head, neck, and upper body muscles. Tummy Time helps to build the strength and coordination needed for rolling over, crawling, reaching, and playing. For our older infants, the teacher will be planning experiences that will encourage pulling up, standing/balancing, and walking.

Toddlers will be focusing on winter activities and learning about animals that will represent the season of winter. The children will be engaging in group activities and individual activities that will help them develop their vocabulary and comprehension as they each learn about the season of winter. The children will actively explore materials that engage their senses as they explore with objects and textures. The activities include fishing for winter animals in an artic glacier while exploring ice and salt and using various materials to create a winter collage. This increases our children's fine motor skills and active exploration on how to use an object as a tool to complete a task. The children will also create a five senses winter book in which they will explore what you hear, see, taste, smell and touch during the winter season!

In our Two's program the teachers have great activities planned to explore winter and the animals that you will find in the colder habitats. They will be enhancing their hand/eye coordination and how to identify similar items from a variety of objects as they look through pictures and cut out pictures to create a winter collage. They will also learn to actively question "why, what, and how?" as they explore a hot/cold sensory bin. They will also learn about their friends as they create "all about me" books and pictures. They have some great games like penguin shape matching and penguin color matching that will further increase the children's shape and color recognition. They also plan to make some really fun Polar Beak masks! Some classrooms have plans to discover the opposite of winter by learning about the rain forest and will learn to experiment with instruments and sounds by making rain sticks!

This month our preschool program will be focusing on "Toward a Better World", a component of our curriculum that presents unique experiences to help children understand the diverse and global world they inhabit, enhancing their senses of responsibility and compassion for people here and abroad. Some classrooms will be taking imaginary trips around the world to talk about the weather, people, the music and food that create the amazing place they are visiting. They will create passports to record their travels! We will be exploring the different language of different cultures around the world and create authentic ways for the children to talk about traditional cuisines. We will discuss similarities and differences and how we may be different on the outside but how we are all the same on the inside. We focus on working and playing collaboratively with all peers regardless of gender, culture, ethnicity, language, or abilities. Other activities include creating, "I am Special" mirrors, friendship wreaths and a class recipe book!

Kindergarten Prep is focusing on Diversity this month and have several family partnership events planned. The children will choose a continent to explore as part of a World at Home project and create a presentation for the other children in the class to learn about the continent they chose! This will be followed by a Diversity Party and Lunch around the World where the children will explore and learn about how food is prepared and how it tastes from places around the world! They will wrap up the month with learning about the music of different cultures and the different instruments used to create rhythm and sound!

## Giving Gifts from the Heart

Have you considered that generosity is a learned behavior that delights the givers as well as the receivers? By making gifts and cards for others, children experience the intrinsic joy of giving something they have created.

It's easy for adults to decide what to make and which materials to use. But remember, this is an offering from children. Within the realm of available resources, help them develop their ideas. Inspire their thoughts about the recipient. "What do you think you'd like to make for Aunt Alice?" "What does she like to do?" Remember, it's what children create that counts; suggest they draw pictures and dictate their sentiments.

In addition to family and friends, think about people beyond those we typically hold near and dear to us. Cards, artwork, and crafts made by children are a heartfelt way to say you care and show appreciation to military personnel, firefighters, police officers, librarians, residents in nursing homes, and others in the community.

Children are very resourceful and might have their own ideas for gifts. Below are a few simple gift suggestions to consider:

### Picture frames

Children glue four wooden tongue depressors together to make a frame and then decorate the frame with paint, and add recycled materials such as odd puzzle pieces, small pieces of paper or fabric, and twigs. Be aware of choking hazards with young children.

### Decorative boxes

Children paint recycled or purchased wooden/cardboard boxes and then decoupage photographs from magazines or photos of themselves onto the surfaces.

### Sculptures

Children can create sculptures using commercial or home-made clays, wood, or recycled objects. Be sure to have lots of glue on hand.

### Paper holders

These might be as simple as finding a unique rock, painting it, and using glue to attach a clothespin. A second option is to glue wood scraps together, paint the sculpture and add one or two clothespins to the top.

### Planters

Children paint pots and use Mod Podge (purchased at a craft shop) to attach colorful tissue paper (cut into small squares). Another option is to use photographs and pictures from magazines.

### Jewelry

Children make necklaces or bracelets by stringing commercial or homemade beads. They can create pins by gluing found objects (such as loose puzzle pieces or Legos) to a pin back and painting over the creation.

## 2019 Parent Satisfaction Survey

**We value your feedback!**

Each year, we ask families to give us important feedback and opinions about our center. This information helps us assess our strengths, and identify areas for improvement. We are truly committed to providing the highest quality education for your child and we believe that every opinion counts.

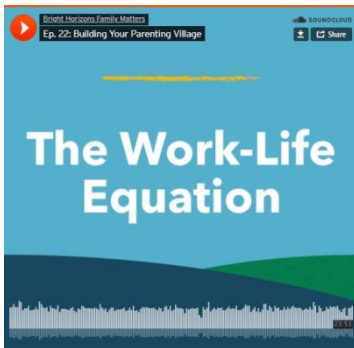
The survey is available from January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts!

**[brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey](http://brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey)**

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## Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

### Building Your Parenting Village



Overwhelmed by working parenthood? Stop trying to do it all alone. “People say I need help, but I don’t know where to get it,” says our guest Daisy Dowling. Get Daisy’s tips on who to ask for help, how to rally your village of volunteers, and why her secret isn’t doing more — but getting more done.

### Ep. 22: Building Your Parenting Village

**[brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep22](http://brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep22)**

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

