



June 2018

From the Director

We are looking forward to the start of our **summer program, Summer Adventures** on June 18th. There is an exciting new theme for each week throughout the summer. We have many great activities planned for all age groups and we are excited to bring new enrichment experiences into the center for the children to explore.

Summer Adventures themes for June:

Wet and Wild - June 18-22

Dance, Music, Theater - June 25-29

Enrichment Visitors include:

Hip Hop Austin - June 19th

Critter Caravan - June 27th

Please join us to kick off the start of our summer program at our annual Ice Cream Social, Friday, June 8th. Stop by the school age playground anytime between 3:30 and 5:30 for a cool treat and to spend some time with friends.

Parents Night Out

Your child(ren) are invited to KidsCenter for a pajama party so you can enjoy some additional time without children on Friday, June 29th, from 7:00p to 10:00pm.

Cheese pizza will be provided for dinner and a children's movie will be shown.

- \$25 per child / \$40 per family
- All children ages 6wks through age 12 are welcome
- Register at the front desk

Important Dates

June 5th – Family Partnership Meeting 4:15pm

June 8th – Ice Cream Social 3:30-5:30pm

June 15th – K-Prep/Kindergarten Graduation

June 22nd – Bike Day

June 29th – Parent's Night Out 7-10pm

July 4th – KidsCenter Closed

Reasons to Celebrate

We would like to welcome the following new families and siblings to ESPN KidsCenter:

Adduci
Cooney
Kuppili
Lee
Tortora



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Teacher of the Month – Sara C

Sara is the perfect example of a center support teacher. She is able to quickly jump in and implement any teacher's lesson plans, while putting her own spin on it. She is very kind and compassionate and is able to connect quickly and easily with the children in her care. Sara brings a calm, caring, and happy demeanor to any classroom. She brings a unique perspective to any age group, and the children and teachers love having her in the classroom.



Classroom of the Month – Nursery I

With some of the children of Nursery I transitioning to toddlers in September, the teachers have been dedicated to making sure they are prepared. The children have been sitting at the table, using place mats and utensils with ease, sleeping on cots, and learning how to hold hands in the hall way. The teachers have also been working hard to incorporate emergent curriculum into their lesson plans. When they noticed some of the children in their room were showing interest in the younger infants and the dramatic play baby dolls, they worked together to create a whole lesson plan on taking care of babies.



Faculty Appreciation

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to last month's faculty appreciation celebrations. This year, we raffled over 30 gifts donated by families. The gift raffle is always a huge hit with teachers and the notes of appreciation mean so much coming from children and families.

Toward a Better World

Over 18 million children in the U.S. do not know where their next meal will come from. We have partnered with ESPN Corporate Citizenship to be a drop-off site for the upcoming summer food drive. The food drive will directly benefit the 81,752 kids in local communities, including Bristol, New Britain and Hartford, who rely on school for subsidized meals. The drop-off bin will be located in the lobby June 5-15, 2018.



Summer Menu

Our summer menu cycle begins June 4th and will continue through August 31st.

Click [here](#) for our summer menu.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Homegrown Readers

It's never too early to start "growing readers"! Research has shown that children who have a close adult who reads to and with them -- especially in the very early years -- learn language and literacy skills, develop an appreciation of books, and experience stronger family relationships.

Reading with your child can be one of the most rewarding and memorable ways to spend time together. In addition to having lasting effects on cognitive, language, and literacy development, sharing books inspires your child's curiosity and creativity. Cuddling up with a book is an intimate activity that builds strong, loving, lifelong bonds.

A few tips for reading with your child:

- Designate a regular time and place to curl up together with a book. Invite your child to select books but also introduce new stories.
- Before you begin a new book, talk about the title, the cover, the author, and the illustrator. Ask thought-provoking questions about the book. "What do you think this story is about?"
- Understand that young children love to hear the same stories over and over again. Repetition provides a level of comfort and enables children to become the experts on the storyline. Also, it allows them to get familiar with the words, and eventually "read" the book to you.
- Make reading interactive; ask questions such as, "What do you think happens next in the story?" Or "How would you handle this situation?" It's interesting to hear your child's impression of the story.
- Expand your child's horizons. When your child develops a new interest, go to the library and find books on that subject.
- Have fun and be playful! When you read aloud, try to make your voice exciting and dramatic for the different parts of the story.

There is so much multicultural, informative, historical, traditional, silly, experiential, and even futuristic literature for young children these days. Refer to "Bright Horizons Growing Readers" to access family resources, books suggestions, at-home reading activities, and tips on reading aloud.

www.brighthorizons.com/childrenbooks



Education & Development

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learning at Home: Summer Activity

Our Learning at Home ideas offer parents fun ways to extend their child's learning opportunities beyond the classroom to take advantage of teachable moments that naturally emerge from everyday life situations.

Beach in a Bottle – Suitable for Kindergarten, Multi-Age, Preschool, School Age, Toddler, Twos

You will need:

A trip to the beach, lake or creek, and supplies: plastic bottle, super glue, permanent marker, and a label

Directions:

Have your child fill the bottle with sand and water from the beach, along with their favorite sea shells or small pieces of driftwood. Seal the top using super glue (keep the glue out of your child's reach and let the bottle dry before using it with them). Label with the date and location of your outing.



New Parenting Podcast Episode! Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays

We've all been there... the get-out-the-door chaos, the after-work frenzy, those toddler-parent moments when things just seem to go kaboom! Is there a better way? Parenting expert and psychologist Jennifer Gillette says unequivocally... yes.

On this episode of the *Work-Life Equation*, Gillette has the tips, tricks, and strategies to tame the tantrums and put what she calls Peaceful Parenting back into your busy day.

[Ep. 17: Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays](http://www.brighthouse.com/peacefulparenting)
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