



## BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Clever Kids Learning Center

### From the Director

Each month everyone in the center practices a fire drill so teachers and children know exactly what to do in a real situation. Tornado drills are practiced once each month for the months of March to September. Lockdown drills are practiced four times each year. And, once each year we practice evacuating to our secondary emergency site of the Wellness Center in Building 75. This year's drill will take place at 9:15 A.M. on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

### A Great Big Thanks!

The teachers and children from the Toddler 2 classroom want to say, "Thanks so much!" to the Barrows family for donating a couple of Earth Boxes. These boxes contained everything needed to plant some great herbs and flowers! Take a look at some pictures of the kids using them!

### Dates of Closure for 2019

- Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 – Federal Observance of Christmas

### Special Events

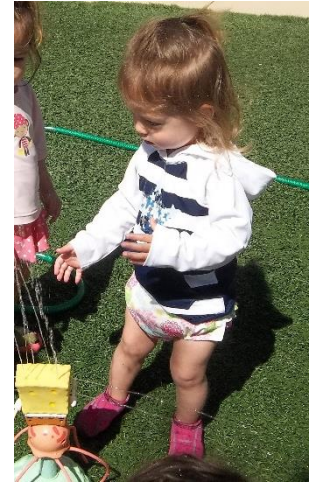
- Wed., July 17<sup>th</sup> – Infant 1: Picnic Lunch Outside at 11:00. Parents bring your own lunch we will provide lunch for the infants
- Fri., July 19<sup>th</sup> – Infant 2: Ice cream social from 3:00 – 4:00
- Fri., July 26 – Toddler 1: Splash Day Parent Party from 2:15 – 3:30
- Fri., July 26 – Toddler 2: Parent Party from 3:00 – 4:00



## Toddler 1

Now that summer is here the children get to be wet, wild, and free. Splash days are here and the kids get to enjoy a nice cool down while running through the sprinkler, splashing at the water table or just splashing one another! All of this seems fun but the children are learning while they are having fun. The children are learning to communicate with teachers and other children about their needs and the world around them. For example, when one child gets splashed in the face and doesn't like it he or she is learning to say, "Stop, I don't like that!" They learn it by having teachers model appropriate language skills.

Even though splash days can be hectic we thank you for dressing the children before they get to school; it's a big help in our busy morning. We will have a parent party Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 to 3:30. Be prepared to get wet because we will be splashing in sprinklers and eating yummy watermelon.



## Preschool East



Summer is here and we have all learned to make adaptations to our daily routine to include water related activities. Typically we have splash days outside but some mornings are chilly; so on one such morning, the children explored an indoor version of splash day. We used water tables with water, soap bubbles and toys that float or sink. We also had sand and water with dinosaurs in another table. Some of the children chose to do finger painting. In summary, they all had opportunities to adapt to the weather and still experience water on a cold, rainy day.



In addition, the children learned that dinosaur toys can make footprints in "sandstones" and also with paint. They learned it by actively exploring with those materials. We have learned about trace fossils and have shared memories of visits to dinosaur museums with our families. We have answered questions about what dinosaurs ate and if volcanoes were here when dinosaurs walked the Earth. We will be learning about sharks over the next weeks.



## Summer Safety: How We Manage Healthy Risk

Summer's here and with it come the inevitable skinned knees and Band-Aids. It's the time of year when children spend more time outdoors, and parents and teachers spend more time thinking about safety. But is it possible to keep children *too* safe? This is a question that the Education and Development team thinks about all the time.

In a recent issue of *Spark*, an education magazine published by our team exclusively for Bright Horizons' teachers, we spoke with Ben Mardell of Harvard University's Project Zero and the Pedagogy of Play. He and his colleagues observe that "rules are predominantly made by well-meaning adults with children's safety in mind. Yet, these rules sometimes interfere with children's ability to experience choice, wonder, and delight."

Mardell suggests teachers ask the question, "What would happen if there were fewer rules?" He has observed that when teachers negotiate limits as needed, rather than insisting on fixed rules, children tend to make their own safety rules, need less supervision, feel trusted and confident, and interact more with each other.

At Bright Horizons, we take children's safety seriously, yet we also know that children need opportunities to take healthy risks, such as climbing a structure or riding a bike. Teachers and center staff are constantly having dialogues on how to achieve this tricky balance. We observe children carefully to understand their developmental abilities and strengths. We provide guidance on things like using scissors, washing hands, and using playground equipment.

Teachers create environments that allow a maximum of freedom and independence within a structure of safety. And finally, teachers encourage children to help make rules and offer more independence as children are ready for it.

*Baker, Megina and Benavente Barbon, Marina. 2017. "Too Many Rules on the Playground: Working the Paradox Between Safety and Freedom." [www.pz.harvard.edu/resources/working-the-paradox-between-safety-and-freedom](http://www.pz.harvard.edu/resources/working-the-paradox-between-safety-and-freedom).*



### #BHFirstDay

**Is your child starting at Bright Horizons?**

Share their first day with us!

Follow Bright Horizons on Instagram, post your photo, and use the hashtag #BHFirstDay so we can see — and celebrate — this exciting milestone with your family.



## Well Aware: Teaching Kids to Garden

Gardening is a fun, healthy outdoor activity you can share with your child. Check out our tips to help your child learn about gardening.

**Start small.** You don't need a large yard to teach your child about gardening. Small and simple is generally better because children are more likely to maintain interest. Plant beans or sunflowers in cups placed in a sunny window. Use a simple project like these to teach your child about gardening basics, such as healthy soil, sunlight, and water.

**Choose high interest plants.** To encourage your child to learn about gardening, let your child help decide which plants to grow, based on his or her interests. If your child has a yen for flowers, consider quick-blooming annuals, such as snapdragons, marigolds, or petunias.

**Use the right tools.** Every gardener needs a set of high-quality tools and gardening gloves, and children are no exception. Give your budding green thumb a child-size shovel and hoe, along with a durable pair of gloves.

**Eat the fruits of your labors.** Children get firsthand experience of the food cycle when the plants they grew appear on your dinner table. Cook a tasty meal and let your child help prepare it. Scrub carrots for a quick snack or slice strawberries for your breakfast cereal.



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

Subscribe to get new episodes!



Listen as parents and early childhood educators come together to cull the competing advice, separate fact from fiction, and focus on what does – and doesn't – matter during these early years. Be more confident, have less worry...and let Bright Horizons help make parenting the joy it was meant to be.

## Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

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

Summer's here and your child wants to get outside, but if you have a child getting ready for kindergarten, you probably have academics on the mind. Good news: outdoor play and learning go hand-in-hand! Learn how, from Rachel Robertson, education and development vice president, and Ruth Fidino, learning and development director. They'll discuss how to boost traditional math, science, and language skills with outdoor activities and build a foundation for lifelong learning.

#### Episode 9: Summer Learning Starts Outside

[www.brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEp9](http://www.brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEp9)

## Clever Kids Learning Center managed by Bright Horizons

Building 64 Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO, 80225

303-236-9400 | [brighthorizons.com/cleverkids.com](http://brighthorizons.com/cleverkids.com)

Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

