

Bright Horizons at USAA News

From the Director

We have some exciting news to share with our families! Starting during the month of October, our center will begin using *My Bright Day*, a new tool to offer the Daily Report and *What in The World Happened Today* via your mobile device!

What Is My Bright Day?

My Bright Day will replace all current paper daily reports in the infant, toddler, and twos classrooms with a tool that can be accessed via smartphones, email and the web, allowing you to view information about your child's day electronically and in real time. For preschool and Kindergarten Prep parents, *My Bright Day* will be used to give you a glimpse of learning experiences for your child every day.

From a parent perspective we hope that this initiative will:

- Give visibility into your child's activities and care information during the day – including photos and/or videos.
- Make it easier to provide drop off details, allowing you to focus on transitioning your child to the classroom

We will be providing every family with more detailed information on getting started with My Bright Day including how to sign up, connect, and use the service. Please be on the lookout for information in the coming weeks!

Important Dates

September 5th - Labor Day: **Center Closed**
September 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th - Jersey Day
September 8th – International Literacy Day
September 9th – Grandparents' Day
September 13th – Mismatched Shoe Day
September 25th – Pajama Day
September 27th – Curriculum Night
September 28th – Lunch Box Day

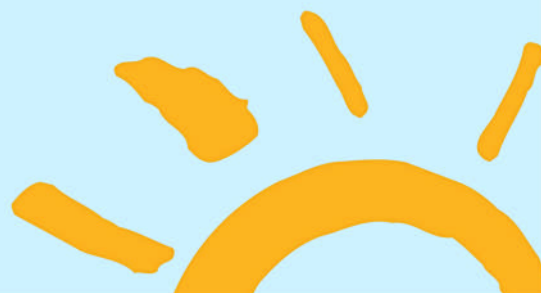
Reasons to Celebrate

JERSEY DAY!

We are excited to announce that Jersey Day is back! Wear your favorite jersey or sport shirt to school every Thursday! 😊

Bright Horizons at USAA

1 Norterra Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85085
623-715-7272 | usaa.az@brighthorizons.com
Monday to Friday 6:30 am to 6:30 pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Twos

In the Twos classroom, the children can be seen forming friendships as they begin to form a strong sense of identity which aids in the development of empathy and relationship. Through teacher guidance, the children in Twos B begin to understand how to communicate with friends in ways that promote cooperation and relationship. This is evident in Carlos asking Ava if she would like to read a book with him and Ava responding with a “yes” and a smile. 😊



Preschool

Preschool B worked their gross motor skills and explored the purpose of teamwork as they learned about soccer while participating in Soccer Shots with Coach Mo. In Movement Matters activities such as group sports like soccer, the children are able to practice coordination and balance as they run, dribble, and kick. They also have the opportunity to explore working as a team, following rules (no hands!), and planning their physical actions to meet a goal.



Kindergarten Prep

Kindergarten Prep I spent a week during the month of August learning about the five senses, including an exploration of sound. By experimenting with the pouring of popcorn kernels in different containers the children were able to practice recognizing the different sounds created through different types of materials



Kindergarten Prep II spent a week in August learning about 2-color patterns. Bennett, Maverick, and Giuliana worked together to create large patterns on the floor using colored tiles. Maya created her own pattern by sorting and gluing pom poms.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Cooking - A Family Affair

Gathering in kitchens nourishes our bodies, minds, and souls. Preparing meals together as a family enhances relationships, invites contribution, and helps children understand basic cooking principles. Also, children develop patience as they discover that delicious food doesn't just magically appear. Although cooking as a family affair is probably not as easy as adults whipping up a quick dinner, with a bit of forethought, more cooks stirring a pot can be fun and has tremendous benefits for everyone involved.

Cooking with children helps them learn about nutrition and hone basic reading, math, and science concepts. Reading recipes and learning kitchen vocabulary expands literacy skills, while counting, measuring, and fractions, foster mathematical thinking. Young chefs learn about chemistry and the physical properties of matter as they mix ingredients and watch them combine, separate, expand, change color, develop scents, and change form.

Research shows that children who help in the kitchen develop healthy eating habits because they tend to eat what they prepare. Below are a few suggestions for toddlers and preschoolers.

Toddlers

Choose simple cooking tasks that match your toddler's skills and attention span.

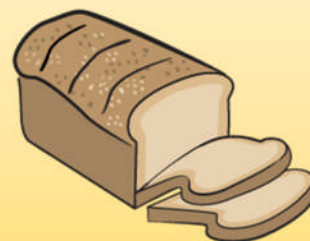
- Wash fruit and vegetables.
- Measure, pour, mix, and stir ingredients.
- Put ingredients in a crockpot or blender.
- Mash potatoes.



Preschoolers

Discuss nutrition and why our bodies and minds need the right kind of fuel to work correctly.

- Help plan meals.
- Chop, grate, peel, and cut ingredients.
- Shuck corn.
- Crack eggs.
- Count and categorize ingredients (wet and dry items).



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learn about the year ahead at Curriculum Night



Ask about our upcoming Curriculum Night event!

September 27, 2018 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

During Curriculum Night, you will learn what we have planned for the year ahead for our center's curriculum as well as community center events. Spend time in your child's classroom, ask about the curriculum for their age group, and ask their teacher about future project plans. This event can also be a great time to connect with fellow Bright Horizons families!

Learn about our Bright Horizons educator promises. As Bright Horizons Educators, we promise to...

Nurture and care for the whole child

Craft curriculum based on expert research

Support and develop teachers

Implement an emergent and integrated approach to learning

Cultivate curiosity through projects, exploration, and play

Encourage children to be confident experimenters and problem solvers

Build an inclusive and respectful community

Create joyful places for childhood



Check out all the places you can connect with us!