

Fun from The Forum!

Bright Horizons at The Forum

Dear Forum Families,

We hope that you are safe, healthy, and playing often!

In this issue, we have provided you activities that can easily be done around the house with little ingredients or materials! There are fun experiments and sensory experiences that can be done with the ingredients in your pantry.

All the experiences are from the Bright Horizon's emergent curriculum. This curriculum is inspired by Reggio-Emilia and are geared to support the development and learning of the "whole child", which means that every domain of development is intentionally supported in the learning experiences.

As always, the learning experiences can be changed to better fit your family!

We miss our families and we hope to see you very soon!

Wishing You Well,

Your Family from The Forum



Infant Learning Experiences

Fabric Fun

Materials: baby wipe container, fabric swatches, scarves, ribbon

Experience: Place fabric pieces, ribbons, scarves, or all three inside a baby wipe container. Encourage your baby to pull the pieces out of the container and observe their exploration!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to develop their fine motor skills and their understanding of cause and effect. They will learn it by using their fingers to pull the fabric pieces and exploring the different textures of the fabric.

Questions to Enhance Learning:

- ▶ “You pulled out a soft piece of fabric!”
- ▶ “I see you using your fingers to press the container so that it opens.”



Layered Tape Pull

Materials: strips of tape

Experience: On a surface, that is at eye-level with your baby, layer strips of tape on top of each other. Encourage your baby to pull the strips and observe your baby explore!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to develop their fine motor skills and their understanding of cause and effect. They will learn it by using their hands and fingers to pull the strips of tape and explore the stickiness of the tape.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “I see you pulled the tape with your fingers!”
- ▶ “Is there another piece of tape under there?”

Baby Safe Sensory Bag

Materials: 1-gallon size freezer bag, baby oil, water, liquid food coloring, duct tape

Experience: In a freezer bag, combine one-part baby oil, one-part water, and a few drops of liquid food coloring. Duct tape the bag so that nothing comes out! Give the sensory bag to your baby and observe their exploration!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn about new sensory experiences and textures and they will learn to develop their fine motor skills.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “Does that feel squishy in your hands?”
- ▶ “I see that the oil and water is blue!”

CD Mobile

Materials: old CD disks, string

Experience: Infants love mobiles! By using CD's in the mobile, infants can see all different colors and can experience how the colors change with movement. Tie string around CD's and hang them in the window! Watch your baby observe the movement and colors of the mobile.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to focus their attention on color shapes, and movement. They will learn it by observing the mobile.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “What do you see in the window?”
- ▶ “I see the CD spinning. I see blue, red, and green.”

Toddler Learning Experiences

Ball Rescue

Materials: small lightweight balls, tape

Experience: In an open doorframe, attach tape from one end of the doorframe to the other. Demonstrate attaching and detaching the balls from the tape or watch what happens when your toddler explores!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to strengthen their gross motor skills and will develop an understanding of cause and effect. They will learn it by taking the balls off and on the tape.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “I see that the ball is sticking to the tape!”
- ▶ “How can we get the ball off the tape? On the tape?”
- ▶ “What happens when we bounce the ball towards the tape?”

Car Paint Race

Materials: toy cars, paint, large paper, ramp or natural incline

Experience: This experience can be done outside! With your toddler, place a large sheet of paper in a place where the cars will roll down like a hill or a slide. Encourage your toddler to place the cars in the paint and then on top of the paper.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn color vocabulary, foundations of mathematical learning and scientific thinking, and fine motor skill development. They will learn it by using their fingers to place the cars in a variety of colored paint and then by observing what happens to the cars and to the paint on the paper.

Questions to Enhance Learning:

- ▶ “You put the car in the blue paint!”
- ▶ “How can we roll the car down the paper?”
- ▶ “I see the car made long lines on the paper!”

Playdough and Blocks

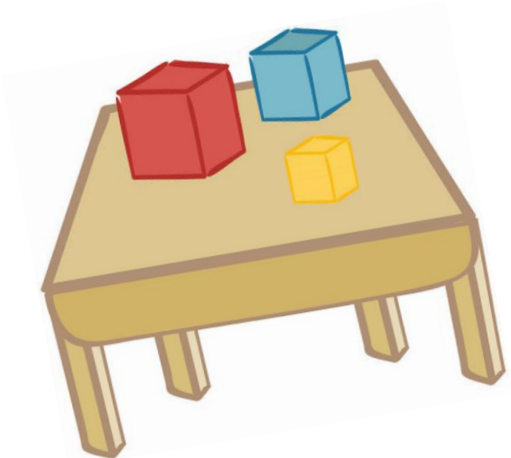
Materials: playdough, building blocks

Experience: With your toddler, explore block prints and stacking blocks while using playdough as the foundation. Observe the prints that the blocks made in the playdough or see how high the blocks can stack while on the playdough.

Developmental Domains: Your child will develop their fine motor skills along with an understanding of balance, gravity, critical thinking, and cause and effect. They will learn it by using their fingers and hands to experiment and explore prints and stacking.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “How many blocks can we stack on the playdough?”
- ▶ “What print does the block make? I see the letter A!”



Lint Roller Pick-Up

Materials: lint roller, pipe cleaners

Experience: Cut pieces of pipe cleaners in half. Place the pipe cleaners on a surface and encourage your child to pick up the pipe cleaners with a lint roller.

Developmental Domains: Your child will develop their fine and gross motor skills and an understanding of cause and effect. They will learn it by exploring the stickiness of the tape and the fuzziness of the pipe cleaners.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “You picked up a pipe cleaner with the sticky roller!”
- ▶ “How many pipe cleaners did you pick up? We can count them!”

Early Preschool Learning Experiences

Painting with Mud

Materials: dirt, water, paintbrushes, paper, measuring cups

Experience: Mix dirt and water with your child and paint with the mud on paper or the ground! Observe what happens to the mud as it is painted with and when it dries.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to use natural materials as a tool for creativity, critical thinking, and scientific thinking. They will develop their fine motor skills. They will learn it by using their fingers and hands to paint with mud.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “How much water do we need? How much dirt do we need?”
- ▶ “What happens when the mud is spread on the paper?”
- ▶ “What happens to the mud when it dries? What happens to the paper?”

Fabric Leaf Painting

Materials: fabric swatches, scraps, old t-shirts, leaves, paint

Experience: Go on a nature walk and gather different leaves with your child. When you are back from your walk, grab old t-shirts or fabric scraps and use the leaves to make prints on the fabric with paint. Observe what leaves your child chooses and see what prints they come up with!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn cause and effect, characteristics of leaves, and using natural materials and creativity to express themselves. They will learn it by picking out their favorite leaves and creating new prints.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “Why did you choose that leaf? What do you like about it?”
- ▶ “Tell me about the prints you are making!”

Spray Bottle Chalk Washing

Materials: spray bottles, water, chalk, measuring cup

Experience: With your child, create designs on the sidewalk with chalk. Encourage them to measure a cup of water and pour it into the spray bottle. After the spray bottle is filled up, use the spray bottles to make the chalk disappear!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn cause and effect, creative expression, and mathematics vocabulary. They will learn it by measuring and filling the spray bottle with water and watching the chalk disappear when sprayed with water.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “How many cups of water do we need to fill the spray bottle? Let’s count!”
- ▶ “What happened to the chalk when you spray it with water?”



Nature Walk Bracelet

Materials: natural materials, tape

Experience: Make a loop of tape so that the sticky side of the tape is on the outside of the bracelet. With your child, go on a nature walk and pick out your favorite leaves, flowers, etc. to put on your bracelets. Discuss the natural materials on your bracelet and what you love about it!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn about the characteristics of our natural world and they will develop with fine motor skills. They will learn it by observing and picking their favorite natural materials and placing the materials on their bracelet.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “I see you placed a flower on your bracelet! What do you like about the flower?”
- ▶ “How many leaves are on your bracelet?”

Preschool Learning Experiences

Transient Art

Materials: picture frames, rocks, leaves, pinecones, sticks, flowers, plants, sand, dirt, and a simple piece of burlap or any type of solid colored fabric. Only thing left to do is create!

Experience: Transient art is art with loose parts and not paint, pencils or markers. This art can constantly change by adding and taking away of different treasures you can find in your backyard. With your child, collect your favorite loose parts and observe their creative process!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to express themselves using everyday objects and materials. They will learn to develop their fine motor development and their critical thinking skills. They will learn it by using loose parts to express themselves creatively!

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “What materials have we collected? Why did you choose this one?”
- ▶ “What can we make out of these materials?”

Leaf Jewelry

Materials: leaves, hole puncher, string

Experience: With your child, go on a nature walk and collect leaves. When you are back, punch holes out of leaves using a hole puncher. String the leaves on a necklace, bracelet, crown, or banner to create something new!

Developmental Domains: Your child will develop their fine motor skills and their creativity. They will learn it by collecting leaves, using the hole puncher to create holes in the leaves, and by stringing the leaves to create something new.

Questions to Provoke Thinking:

- ▶ “How many leaves are on your necklace?”
- ▶ “How many circles did you make by hole punching the leaves?”

Tape Tower Measurement

Materials: painter's tape, blocks, measuring tape, ruler

Experience: On a wall, place a line of painter's tape vertically. Next to the wall, encourage your child to build blocks all the way up to the line. Discuss with your child where the tape should be and how long it should be. Measure the tape with a ruler or measuring tape. Once your child has built their structure, measure the structure with your child. Measure different lengths of tape and observe the height difference with your child.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn mathematics vocabulary, scientific vocabulary and critical thinking. They will learn it by measuring tape, the height of the structure they built, and observe the differences in measurement and height between the structures.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ "How tall is your first tower? How tall is the second?"
- ▶ "How tall is your tower in inches? Let's count!"
- ▶ "Can we make a taller tower? Shorter tower?"

Noodle Necklaces

Materials: dry pasta noodles, string

Experience: With your child, weave string through pasta noodles. As you make your necklace, count out how many pasta noodles you have used and then count how many your child has used. You can also use colored pasta to make patterns.

Developmental Domains: Your child will develop their fine motor skills, hand/eye coordination, and their creative process. They will learn it by using their fingers to string pasta noodles to make a necklace.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ "How many pasta noodles did you use for your necklace?"
- ▶ "How many pasta noodles will it take to use the whole string?"

Kindergarten Prep Learning Experiences

Letters with Legos

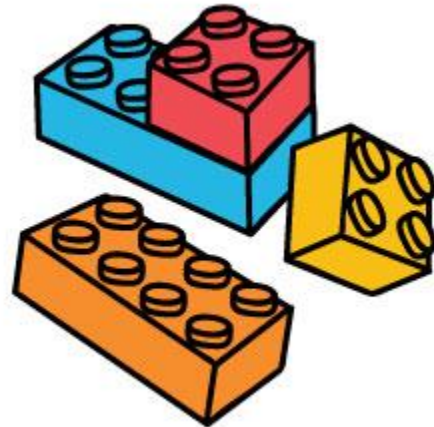
Materials: legos, playdough

Experience: With your child, collect different sizes and shapes of Legos. Flatten out playdough and press the blocks in the playdough. Take out the block and observe the print that the Legos made. Challenge your child to create numbers, letters, and other pictures by printing with the Legos.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn mathematic vocabulary and meaning, literacy and handwriting skills, and letter identification. They will learn it by creating letters, numbers, and what ever they want with the prints.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ “How many times did you press the block down to create the letter ‘E’?”
- ▶ “How can we create the letter ‘A’ with small blocks? Large blocks?”



Shadow Sundials

Materials: chalk, paper, pencils, clipboard, camera

Experience: This learning experience can be continued throughout the day. It is better if it is a sunny, clear day. With your child, stand outside in the morning and trace your child’s shadow. Throughout the day, at different times, stand in the same position and trace your child’s shadow. After you have traced your child’s shadow, have them take a picture of the tracing and ask them to document the time and their observations of the tracings and how they have changed. At the end of the day, take a final picture of all the tracings and explore the reason of why the tracings look different.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to develop their fine motor skills, their understanding of the scientific method and scientific thinking, they will learn about the sun, light, time, and how to observe experiment outcomes to create hypothesis.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ “What can you tell me about your observations? Why did your shadow move?”
- ▶ “Do you think your results would be different if it were raining? Why?”

Baking Soda and Vinegar Experiment

Materials: baking soda, vinegar, container, food coloring, dish soap,

Experience: This is a messy experiment! First, help your child fill the containers 1/2-3/4 of the way full of vinegar and color the vinegar with food coloring. Add a squeeze of dish soap to each container. Add a spoonful of baking soda to the containers and see what happens! Before adding the baking soda, you might ask your child what they think will happen when the baking soda is added!

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to pour and mix ingredients to create chemical reactions, they will learn scientific thinking and a greater understanding of the scientific method. By measuring, your child will learn mathematic concepts and vocabulary. They will learn it by conducting the experiment and making observations.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ “What will happen when we add the baking soda?”
- ▶ “What happens if we add less baking soda? More baking soda?”



Natural Numbers

Materials: leaves, sticks, rocks, flower petals, etc.

Experience: On a nature walk, collect natural materials. Gather enough materials to make numbers. Once you are home, encourage your child to create numbers out of the materials and then have them count out that number by placing natural materials beside the number one at a time.

Developmental Domains: Your child will learn to form and create numbers while learning the meaning of each number along with one-to-one correspondence and early mathematics skills.

Questions to Extend Learning:

- ▶ “How many leaves do we have?”
- ▶ “How can we make the number 7 out of sticks?”
- ▶ “How can we use the sticks to count to ‘7’?”

Forum Favorite Books

- ▶ **Hello, Day!**, written by Anita Lobel
- ▶ **The Pout-Pout Fish**, written by Deborah Diesen
- ▶ **Are You My Mother?** written by P.D. Eastman
- ▶ **A Visitor for Bear**, written by Bonny Becker
- ▶ **Jamerry!** written by Bruce Degen
- ▶ **Wabi Sabi**, written by Mark Reibstein
- ▶ **Dragons Love Tacos**, by Adam Rubin
- ▶ **Ada Twist, Scientist**, by Andrea Beaty



Share Your Learning Experiences with Us!

We would love for you to share your learning experiences you have tried and have come up with as a family!

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