

The Bright Horizons' *World at Their Fingertips* Curriculum Program

At our E.D.S. programs children participate in a curriculum based on the Bright Horizons *World at Their Fingertips*, (*WORLD* for short), a program that empowers children to become confident, successful, life-long learners and secure, caring people. We use emergent, project and theme based approaches to extended learning, creating opportunities for children to make friends and spend time with them in different settings, from classroom to playground and neighborhood walks.

The *World at Their Fingertips: Education for Bright Horizons* is a comprehensive, integrated program based on understandings developed through the work of Jean Piaget, Erik Erickson, Lev Vgotsky, and other leading developmental theorists and educators, who emphasize the importance of active learning, language, and the need to extend beyond the artificial separation of learning and caring. The *World at Their Fingertips* creates developmentally appropriate learning environments in which each child learns what the world is like, how it works, and what he/she is capable of in it. *World* is both an approach and a sensibility that infuses interactions and the planned environment.

World is intended to provide the framework for excellence in early care and education. Each center provides a similar experience in “sense and sensibility”: philosophy, culture, language, drive for excellence, and general approach to curriculum. In that sense, it is a cookie cutter approach. But, and a very important “but”, using the cookie cutter metaphor, every center will be different and reflect the variety of “dough”: facility, client, budget, talent pool, interests, and regional prevailing practice. We want every center to be an organic community of caring that also reflects the way each center is different. We can be alike and different.

World consists of developmentally based programs for each age group. There are also elements that emphasize a content area, like ***Language Works***, ***Math Counts***, ***Art Smart***, ***Science Rocks***, ***Well Aware***, ***Projections***, ***Our World and Toward a Better World*** that cross all age groups.



Language Works – A Comprehensive Language Approach

- *Growing Readers* is a book and newsletter program devoted to inspiring a lifelong love of reading by spotlighting children’s Books of Excellence and encouraging the joy that literature can bring to children.
- Teaching staff integrate activities for listening, speaking, reading, and writing throughout the curriculum and integrate them into the daily activities, projects, environment, and classroom communication.
- Children are engaged in a continuum of experiences that challenges their emerging skills and knowledge. Reading, rhyming, putting on puppet shows, creating a newspaper, composing poetry, drama, and corresponding with pen pals are examples of *Language Works* in action.



Math Counts – The Bright Horizons Approach to Enriched Experiences in Mathematics

- Mathematical experiences with one-to-one correspondence, counting, sorting, patterning, and problem solving through learning centers, projects, activities, and guidelines for teacher interactions that all promote the developmental growth necessary for success in school
- Math is embedded in everything that we do and experience in our day-to-day lives: budgeting our time or money, splitting a bill, planting the garden, or turning up the volume.
- This element provides guidance for encouraging children’s learning of number recognition, one-to-one correspondence, seriation, ordination, and other fundamental math skills.



Art Smart – The Bright Horizons Approach to Developing an Appreciation of the Arts

- Encourages children to uncover their talents and express themselves artistically.
- Recognition that young children can develop an appreciation of art, music, theater, and dance, and support the artistic expression that grows within each child.
- *ArtSmart* is infused into all areas of Bright Horizons programs because art is what children innately do. Engagement in the arts allows children to make decisions, take action, learn about cause and effect and begin to understand their bodily powers. In addition to enhancing imagination and self-esteem, the arts enhance development of children's skills in literacy, science, math, social studies and social interactions, resulting in a growing sense of competence.



Science Rocks - Enriched Experiences in Science and Technology

- *Science Rocks* is an attitude of inquiry that inhabits everyone in the classroom. From the infant who is just noticing shadows on the floor to the kindergartner measuring the length of that shadow at different times of day, making sense of the world is the job of childhood.
- *Science Rocks* includes science learning centers rich in opportunities for children to hypothesize, gather data, experiment, form conclusions, and make representations of the results. Physics, chemistry, technology, biology, anthropology, paleontology, and geology are all aspects of the curriculum as children explore their environment, only we don't use those names.
- The educational team and children become researchers and problem solvers. Staff does not have to know all the answers; they just have to help form the questions.



Well Aware & Movement Matters – An Approach to Health, Fitness & Wellness

- The *Staying Healthy* campaign creates safe and healthy environments for children
- Fosters positive attitudes towards healthy living through modeling, experience, and activity
- Promotes understanding of how health and fitness impact our sense of well-being and fitness
- The goals of *Well Aware* include giving all children who attend Bright Horizons centers access to daily structured physical activities, to improve the fitness and health of children in our care, and to provide families with information regarding the benefits of structured physical exercise. This program not only focuses on children's physical health, but also heightening awareness for children from a young age, relieving stress, building self – esteem and decreasing illness.
- Movement Matters contributes to improved balance, coordination, flexibility, strength of bones and muscles, respiration and cardiovascular rate.



Our World and Toward a Better World – Appreciating Diversity, Caring for the Environment, and Helping Children Make a Difference in the World

- Acknowledges and values the rich cultural heritage of families
- Provides a wide range of experiences for children to learn respect for our world, its diverse people, and the environment
- Supports the development of empathy, compassion and social awareness in children.
 - Offers service opportunities to act on these dispositions through center and home activities and projects.
- Children learn to connect and care about the world and learn what they can do to
 - make the world a more beautiful and sustainable place
 - volunteer and support our communities by helping the homeless and hungry and supporting community helpers
 - celebrate diversity and promote peace