



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT ALLSTATE LITTLE HANDS CDC

Curriculum Night

Please join us on Wednesday September 25
from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Curriculum night is an opportunity to engage with your child in their classroom. This evening allows you to connect with your child's teachers, learn more about the signature practices and observe your child's skills first hand! Mark your calendars!

Curriculum 🍎 Night

Did you know?

Little Hands Child Development Center and Mobile Therapy Centers of America (MTC) are in their ninth year of collaboration to bring early detection and appropriate intervention to children and families. MTC is a private practice based in Libertyville however their licensed and credentialed therapists travel to our center to provide developmental screenings, evaluations and therapy services. Our staff collaborates with the MTC team on a regular basis and receives specialized resources in the areas of speech, language, motor and social emotional development.

If you have any questions regarding MTC's services, feel free to contact:

Nicole Brachfield M.A. CCC-SLP/L

nfauquier@mtcus.com or visit their website at www.mtcus.com

Art Auction

Thank you so much to everyone for your bids on the art pieces that were up for auction or for purchase. The proceeds from the auction will help support our Bright Space- Maryville Crisis Center in Chicago. All of the art pieces were designed by our summer campers in combination with our art teacher, Ms. Krys.



Important Dates

- September 4- Izabela's 1 Year Anniversary (Infant Teacher)
- September 5- Lauren's 2 Year Anniversary (Support Teacher)
- September 7- Shirin's 15 Year Anniversary (Infant Support)
- September 7- Jennifer's Birthday (Infant Teacher)
- September 10- Irina's 12 Year Anniversary (Infant Teacher)
- September 14- Allstate Family Day
- September 18- Allstate Sprint and Stride (Wear PURPLE)
- September 20- Center Wide Evacuation
- September 23- First Day of Fall
- September 24- Kristina's 7 Year Anniversary (Infant Teacher)
- September 25- Curriculum Night 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- September 28- Walk On Event at Parkway North

This month the Two's classrooms participated in a Laua themed parent/child activity on their playground! The children had the opportunity to wear their swim clothes and explore water tables, painting on tall windows and alphabet trees. The children could wear grass skirts, leia necklaces and enjoy lemonade.



Early Literacy at Bright Horizons

At **Bright Horizons**[®], we believe that early literacy and language development — including reading, writing, and oral/receptive language (speaking, listening, and understanding) — are the foundation for cognitive growth, as well as a primary way children build relationships and connections. Language Works, our comprehensive literacy and language approach, is based on current research on how children learn to read and write. Our approach is consistent with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the International Reading Association's position that early literacy development is an “emerging set of relationships between reading and writing...embedded in a larger developing system of oral communication.”

According to NAEYC, there are at least three critical components of early literacy learning:

- ▶ Oral language comprehension (spoken words).
- ▶ Phonological awareness — the understanding that sounds can be manipulated to make letters and words.
- ▶ Print awareness — the knowledge that print is a written form of communication.

Additionally, NAEYC suggests that a child's motivation and desire to read books, communicate, and gain knowledge through literacy are just as important as skills development. In other words, early literacy success is dependent upon a combination of cognitive skills and positive dispositions.

Early literacy begins long before a child enters preschool or kindergarten. Young babies learn that communication is a way to connect, find comfort, and express needs. Toddlers and twos begin to share their ideas. Preschoolers understand that the written word is just one more tool for communicating through reading and writing.

We want children to leave our programs with a deep love for rich conversations, engaging stories, and enjoyable writing experiences, and we understand that early literacy is more than merely reciting the ABCs. We achieve these goals through daily interactions, projects, and activities. Children talk informally with each other and teachers throughout the day. They make written plans, graphs, and charts during group time activities. They hear and read stories, often reading them several times, discussing the characters and plot, and acting the stories out. These are just a few of the ways teachers build emerging literacy and writing skills in our centers and schools.

Fun, Low-Cost Outdoor Activities for Kids

Below are a few suggestions for fun family activities that can be done outdoors:

Plan a weekly neighborhood walk or hike. Toddlers are at a vantage point to observe things that we adults often miss. A simple walk around the neighborhood with the family can open a whole world to them if we simply slow down. Make time to explore with toddlers, keeping in mind the journey, not the destination. How many plants and insects can you find? How many different textures or sensations can you discover?

Explore pond life. With older children, you can get an up-close view of a local pond. Cut the ends off a large food container or plastic milk jug, and secure plastic wrap over one end with a rubber band or waterproof tape. Place the wrapped end of the container in a stream or pond. Look into the other end. The glare of the sun is diminished when looking through the container, so it's easier to see plant and animal life in the water.

Nurture your family with nature. Visit farms, forests, and wildlife preserves, as well as local parks, streams, lakes, woods, and community gardens. Use magnifying glasses to search for tiny insects, cameras to photograph the sights you see, and tape measures to measure the circumference of trees or the heights of plants. Look for pictures in the clouds or watch stars at night.



The Work-Life Equation

Subscribe where you get podcasts!



Listen to the Bright Horizons Work-Life Equation for information on parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life.

Featured Podcast Episode

Summer's Over! Back to School

New classes...crazy morning routine...making lunch — the kids are finally back in school, and yet, life seems more complicated than ever. Can you manage it gracefully? Our guest Christine Koh says: sort of. Listen to hear her tips for embracing the important stuff, jettisoning the rest, and enlisting the whole family (even kindergarteners!) for help.

Episode 21: Summer's Over! Back to School

www.brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEpi22

You can listen to this episode on the [Bright Horizons website](http://www.brighthorizons.com), [Apple](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Google](#), and [Stitcher](#).

Bright Horizons at Little Hands

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

