



Spotlight Family

As the parents of two young boys, Nicholas (5 yrs.) and Ethan (18 months) we found that Bright Horizons in Spotswood provides a nurturing environment while also challenging our kids to learn by utilizing age appropriate activities. The center has a very good food allergy system that protects children with food allergies while not alienating them from the group. The classroom design is warm and inviting, both our boys love to go to the center; and are often running down the halls to meet their teachers. As we check our kids into the center in the morning we can go to work knowing they will be cared for and have an have a fun filled day while learning. We enjoy getting updates on the My Bright Day application and going over the daily reports with our kids. The center also provides opportunities for parents to visit the school and interact with the kids during the school day; we really enjoyed the Mother's Day breakfast and the live music shows. The teachers are excellent, and the directors are highly engaged in the daily activities in the classrooms. I cannot say enough about this center and the staff.



Important Dates

6/5: 80s Day! Children and staff can come dressed in their favorite 80s attire.

6/11-6/13: Parent Teacher Conferences

6/14: Superhero Breakfast with Dad or Someone Special 7am-10am

6/18: Better Together Bake Sale

6/20: Kindergarten Prep and Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony 7:30pm

6/21: Summer Festival: Children will enjoy summer activities and treats

6/24: Rainbow Day: Children can come to school dressed in the colors of the rainbow!

6/24: Parent Appreciation Breakfast 7-10am

Reasons to Celebrate

6/13: Ms. Brianna's 1year anniversary

Birthdays:

6/4: Ms. Bevin

6/6: Adam C.

6/21: Connor R.



Infant

Through the curriculum *Towards a Better World*, teachers encourage a baby's natural sense of curiosity by guiding his exploration of the world around him. Our infants learn to identify themselves in a mirror or photograph. They learned this by having access to hand mirrors and family cubes.



Toddler

Our self-help skills start in infants, but continue well through toddlers and preschool age. Through our Well Aware curriculum, our toddlers are practicing family style dining and feeding themselves. Our students learn to drink independently with a dixie cup, in addition to eating with their own spoons and forks at meal time.



Preschool

Sink or float? This is just one Science Rocks experience that our preschoolers love. They learn to develop hypotheses and conclusions. They learn this by selecting classroom items and making hypotheses on whether or not items will float to the top or sink to the bottom.



School-Age

Through *Language Works*, our teachers integrate language and literacy into fun and meaning activities throughout each day. They learn to use phonic-based spelling for complex words. They learn this by sounding out new words rather than just getting the correct spelling from our teacher.

Introducing the Music Makers Program

In 2018, the Education and Development team at Bright Horizons introduced Music Makers, the musical component of Art Smart, Bright Horizons' visual and performing arts curriculum. At Bright Horizons, we believe that music exposure is an important part of every child's development.

Music is much more than singing. Music matters because it is universal. Every culture has some form of music, and it naturally interests and delights children. Music has a language of its own and is a wonderful outlet for creative energy. Music builds relationships, nurtures developmental skills, and encourages cultural exchanges. Howard Gardner, developer of the concept of multiple intelligences, considers music one of the eight intelligences.

Music Makers offers teachers practical and theoretical information about the value of music and how to present it in the early childhood classroom.

A dynamic music program will:

- ▶ Teach children the basic properties of music, such as tempo, pitch, and volume.
- ▶ Build children's self-esteem and ability to express feelings.
- ▶ Support peer interaction and social skills knowledge.
- ▶ Develop language and vocabulary.
- ▶ Expose children to cultures and languages.
- ▶ Introduce children to musical instruments.

In your child's classroom, you might see:

- ▶ Sound areas in the infant and toddler rooms that include musical instruments, wind chimes, or whistles.
- ▶ Musical instruments, songbooks, microphones, and other materials as appropriate for each age group.
- ▶ Explorations of musicians, composers, and musical groups, such as orchestras and quartets.
- ▶ Children singing songs, dancing, playing instruments, creating instruments, or reading books related to music.
- ▶ Children exploring patterns, rhythms, and tones.

Introduce children to musical instruments. The Music Makers curriculum is just one way we keep our promises to nurture and care for the whole child and create joyful places for childhood. Talk with your child's teacher or director to learn more about Music Makers.

Did You Know?

The Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) works with private companies to eliminate the problem of childhood obesity, and complements the Let's Move! initiative started by former First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2011, Bright Horizons was the first early care organization to join PHA and in 2017 we renewed our commitment until 2020.

Through this partnership, Bright Horizons is focused on improving our in-center practices and family resources on the topics of nutrition, movement, and gardening. Stay tuned for a new segment in our monthly newsletters that will feature tips and ideas on these topic areas!



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

On this episode: executive function, an important set of organizational skills that will take your child into the future. Listen as Rachel Robertson, education and development vice president, and Ruth Fidino, learning and development director, discuss how you can weave executive function skill-building opportunities into your everyday life, and support your children while helping them learn to do things for themselves.

Ep. 3: The Quest for Executive Function

brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEp3

Bright Horizons at Spotswood

410 Main Street, Spotswood, NJ 08884
732-251-2686 | spotswood@brighthorizons.com
Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

