

USAA Child Development Center

News

From the Director

April Showers bring May flowers!

Thank you to all of you who participated in our activities for week of the young child and for those of you who came to the Lunch and Learn. Please let me know any ideas or topics that you might be interested in for our next discussion.

We want to celebrate moms (and/or dads and/or other family members) this month with Muffins and juice on the 11th in the morning from 7:00 – 9:00 am...stop by the gym for this special start to your day!

This month we will also be having Parent Teacher Conferences on May 10th from 6:00-8:30 pm. Please sign up for one of the 10-minute slots as soon as possible with your child's teacher. (We will still be closing at 6:30 that night).

Kindergarten-Prep graduation will be held on Friday, May 25th at 3:30 pm at the Pavilion for all children in KP. We will continue the program throughout the summer, but want to celebrate all the accomplishments this year!

Teacher Appreciation

May is Teacher Appreciation Month all month long with National Teacher Appreciation Day on May 8th.

We have a calendar of ideas of how you can help us appreciate all of the hard work our teachers do so be watching for that in the weekly updates.

Thank you in advance for your help with this exciting month of celebration!

Important Dates

May 4th – Cinco de Mayo – chips and salsa to go

May 8th – National Teacher Appreciation Day

May 9th – Parent/Teacher Conferences
(Preschool B only)

May 10th – Parent/Teacher conferences

May 11th – (7-9 am) *Muffins with Mom*

May 16th – 11:30 am College Coach Webinar:
Saving for College

College shirt day

May 25th – 3:30 pm Kindergarten-Prep Graduation
at the Pavilion

Reasons to Celebrate

5/2: Bennet turns 2!

5/4: Klaira turns 2!

5/11: Ryder turns 5!

5/16: Kayden turns 5!

5/27: Conner turns 2!

5/29: Zoe turns 3!

5/31: Riley turns 2!

USAA Child Development Center

1855 Telstar Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

719-533-8280 | usaaco@brighthorizons.com

Monday - Friday & 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Through the curriculum within *Our World*, teachers encourage a baby's natural sense of curiosity by guiding their exploration of the world around them. Ms. Julie sat two infants in front of each other. She also placed a toy to explore in-between the two infants. While they explored the toy, they also could be heard cooing; exchanging in a "baby conversation." When the infants begin to participate in social relationships, **they learn to** purposefully interact with peers. **They learn it by** playing near each other in a carpeted or cushioned open space.



Toddler

A toddler room is full of activities from small figures for sorting, to shape boxes, to cups to stack by size, to sensory tables to learn comparison of quantity and volume. *Math Counts* when the toddlers learned to play a matching game. The toddler teachers created colorful pairs of matching eggs. Some of the toddlers were able to match the eggs together, while others just carried the eggs around. When the toddlers participate in classification activities, **they learn to** match a colorful egg to its match. **They learn it by** learning their colors and shapes.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



Transition

Two year olds display scientific behavior throughout their day, from stomping in puddles, investigating a sandbox, to intently watching a bird in flight. *Science Rocks* when the two year olds experimented with baking soda and colored vinegar during table top activities. The two year olds used eyedroppers to suck the vinegar up into their dropper then squeezed the dropper over the cookie sheet; watching as the chemical reaction took place. Zoe said, “It bubbles up!” Chanse said, “Oooo, look at it!” Rachel said, “It’s pretty!” When the two year olds use tools for investigation and discovery, **they learn to** use tools in purposeful ways that support discovery. **They learn it by** squeezing the vinegar over cookie sheet covered with baking soda.

Preschool A

Science Rocks when the Preschool A children made moon sand. The preschooler took turns adding the ingredients into a bowl. Cooper counted the cups of flour to the bowl, “One, two, three.” They also took turns stirring it. Once it was made, Ms. Jessica gave each child a medium sized ball of the moon sand. The preschoolers then added different textures to the sand. When the preschoolers participate in investigative properties, **they learn to** explore how properties can change. **They learn it by** participate in cooking projects – such as making moon sand or muffins – that alter physical properties.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool B

Language Works when the Preschool B children use geoboards to match letters. Ms. Marleta and Ms. Reilly used the geoboards: one side of the board was label with the capital letter and the other side was label with the same capital letter but in a different spot. The children used rubber bands to match one capital letter to the capital letter on the other side of the board. When the children participate in pre-reading activities, **they learn to** identify alphabet letters. **They learn it by** matching letters on a geoboard.



Kindergarten Prep

Well Aware is a unique and important curriculum component that ensures children are engaging in daily activities that advance their understanding of wellness and associated experiences. During playground time, a couple of children kicked the soccer ball back and forth to each other. When the Kindergarten Prep children participate in large motor and fitness activities, **they learn to** coordinate multiple muscle movements as well as enjoy and seek out physical activities. **They learn it by** playing soccer, assuming yoga poses, and playing games like “Red Light, Green Light.”



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Family Fitness Fun

You've heard the statistics: one in five preschoolers is obese and the childhood obesity rate has tripled in the last 30 years. At Bright Horizons®, we're passionate about children's health and we believe this trend can be reversed. In 2011, Bright Horizons joined the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA). As part of our PHA commitment, we're updating physical education training materials for teachers to ensure that children get the physical activity they need every day. We're also producing a host of resources for families. Building better health is as simple as becoming more physically active, one step at a time. Below are a few ideas for easy family fitness.

Start a habit.

Children aren't particularly interested in why fitness is so important. They are interested, though, in fun family time. Establishing habits of physical activity in childhood paves the way for healthy adulthood. So, try to plan at least one physical activity on the weekend. Go for a walk, play at the park, or head to a pool. Think about building physical activity into your schedule at least three times during the week. This can be as simple as throwing a ball around before dinner or playing a quick game of hide and seek. It doesn't have to be lengthy or complicated, but you do need to be intentional about it. Write it into your schedule so it becomes a habit.

Get mobile.

One of the simplest ways to get more exercise is by ditching the car. Walk, bike, or rollerblade to school, the store, and the library – anywhere you can. Some areas are more “walk friendly” than others, of course, but try to walk as often as possible.

Work it out.

Family chores are another way to get moving. Raking leaves, weeding a garden, mopping the floor – all these activities get the body moving. Turn on some music and make chores a fun family time. Try to be consistent, as well. When children know that the family will spend an hour every Saturday working together, for example, they're less likely to balk and more likely to see it as a predictable part of their family culture.



Education & Development

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

Join us in celebrating our teachers & staff!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member can receive is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make their classrooms a wonderful place for children and families.

Teacher Appreciation Day is May 8th but our teachers, support staff, and leadership team work hard all year long to make your child's experience here the very best it can be. Help us celebrate them all month long!

Your thoughts make a difference – and mean a lot to all of us. Take a moment to share any stories, comments, and well wishes for those who touch your family's life each day.

Visit our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website to leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.

appreciation.brighthorizons.com

