

From the Director

Hello families,

We hope you are all enjoying your summer, staying cool, and staying healthy!

Family Partnership Group – At The Academy we want to encourage and facilitate an interactive partnership between families, teachers, and staff. Our family partnership group gives all families the opportunity to contribute to our center's culture. We meet virtually once a month to share and discuss new and exciting updates, listen to ideas on how to improve our center, and celebrate teachers. If you are interested in joining the group, please reach out to me. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 31st at 2:00 pm.

Water Days - Please send your child to school in their bathing suit with sunscreen applied. Please provide a towel, water shoes/sandals, an extra set of clothes, and a swim diaper if your child is in diapers. August water days are listed to the right in "important dates."

Help Our Family Grow - We'd like to invite you to tell your friends about us. They'll get to enjoy the best in early education (plus \$50 off their registration fee), and you'll receive a \$200 tuition credit for every new family that enrolls. It's our way of saying thank you for being part of our family — and for helping our family to grow.

If you are interested in adding days or switching your schedule in the fall, please let me know as soon as possible.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kara Lewis Almanza



Important Dates

National Tell a Joke Day – 8/16
Water Days – 8/3, 8/11, 8/17, 8/25, 8/31
Closed for Labor Day – 9/5

*Tuition is due on 8/25

*Follow us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/academyatpasadena](https://www.facebook.com/academyatpasadena)

Reasons to Celebrate

Birthdays

Celeste – 8/8
Kieran – 8/15
Pedro – 8/18
Ms. Candace – 8/18
Max – 8/26
Siena – 8/28

Thank You

Our Awards of Excellence celebrations will be held this fall and we are incredibly humbled by the **11,000** nominations families submitted for our **#awesomeeducators**.

Thank you for recognizing the teams that work hard to make our centers — and your family's experience — the very best it can be.





Yellow Room

Summer water days have commenced! Water days will be held once a week through September, and with the weather warming up, the children have been looking forward to them. These days provide the children with a new activity and experience outside of the ordinary playground time. It allows them to explore different senses and have control over how much or how little they want to get wet. We have loved seeing the different ways they choose to play and manipulate the water activities that we have been providing for them.



Blue Room

We have observed the Blue Room children pretending to dig and haul dirt with construction trucks all over the playground. To give the children space to explore this interest, we discussed building a sandbox on the yard. We gathered our materials and started “construction”. The children were so excited to observe the process! As they watched the assembly of the sandbox, they were observing the adults modeling mathematical thinking and simple engineering. It was also a practice in patience – they couldn’t wait to start digging. Our new sandbox is another gathering place that encourages children to communicate, work together, share, be creative, and have fun!



Orange Room

The Orange Room has been interested in creating unique pieces of art. Here, the children painted with marbles by rolling them inside of a box. They soon realized that by using a larger box, this experience required two people using their whole bodies to maneuver the marble in the direction of their choosing. With communication and coordinated movements, the children created unique abstract works of art together.



Let's Find Out! Discovery Driven Learning in Action

Discovery Driven Learning™, Bright Horizons' proven approach to teaching & learning, is about sparking ideas, embracing questions, and trying solutions. But how does this instructional method come to life in the classroom? All it takes is a simple question:

"Is a coconut a nut?"

"I don't know. Let's find out!"

From here, the children can spend several weeks exploring a coconut. They might weigh the coconut to see how heavy or light it is; try different ways to open the coconut; and make predictions in their journal about what tools will work best.

Hands-on projects allow children to explore and come to conclusions. Throughout the learning experience, the teacher will encourage children to express their thinking by asking open-ended questions and reflecting on what each child observes.

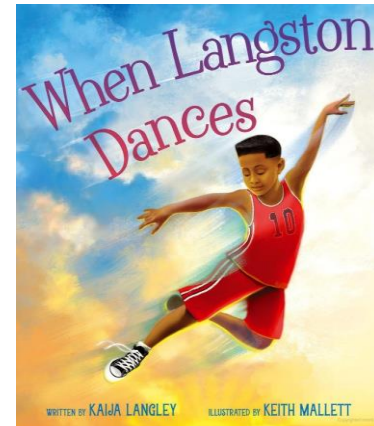
Discovery Driven Learning is rooted in the science of learning; through play, experimenting with possibilities, problem-solving, and project work, we are confident children are getting the very best early learning experiences possible.

Returning to Work After Parental Leave

Headed back to work after spending time at home with a new baby? Whether you're feeling anxious, stressed, guilty, excited — or all of the above — we've got strategies you can use to prepare for the logistics and mental load of it all.

[Register for this webinar today!](#)

**August 23, 2022
3:00 pm EST**



Growing Readers – August Issue

This month's Growing Readers Book of Excellence, *When Langston Dances* by Kaija Langley, features Langston, a young boy who likes basketball, but loves ballet.

Also in the issue – a new video episode of the Growing Readers Book Club! Become Teacher Nate's co-researchers as you and your child are introduced to high-quality children's books along with ideas to explore, create, and investigate further!

Click [here](#) to read the current issue and watch the video.

Play and Learning

With the approach of summer comes camps, family vacations, and outdoor fun. But you may be wondering, when will you have time to prepare your child for the new school year? Luckily, outdoor fun encourages learning for your child. Play contributes to the imagination and encourages healthy risk-taking. When we're outside moving our bodies, we're doing a lot of beneficial things for our brains.

[Listen](#) to this **Teach.Play.Love** podcast episode to learn why you don't have to choose between summer adventure and learning support.