

USAA Child Development Center News

From the Director

Wow, we had a very busy and fun October and are gearing up for a busy November as well!!!! Our chili cook-off was a success and the winner was....Jamie Walter! Congrats!



Our teachers have been busy working on milestones, observations and assessments on the children in preparation for Parent Teacher Conferences on November 8th. Watch for the sign-up sheets to participate.

We also have Lifetouch coming for school picture day(s) on November 15th and 16th – make sure to be ready to show off all those beautiful smiles!

We will be doing Pumpkin Pie at Pick up on November 21st – Stop by to enjoy a slice of pie or feel free to take one to go!

Don't forget about the webinar the week of November 27th on Common Caregiving Challenges.

Happy Thanksgiving from
ALL of us to ALL of you!!!

Important Dates

November 8th - Parent Teacher Conferences
6:00-8:30 p.m.

November 15th - Lifetouch Picture Day

November 16th - Lifetouch Picture Day

November 21st – Pumpkin Pie at pick up

November 22nd – Thanksgiving (CDC Closed)

November 27th (week) Webinar on Common
Caregiving Challenges

Reasons to Celebrate

11/1	Gabriel R. turns 5!
11/1	Jackson turns 3!
11/6	Olin turns 2!
11/7	Eleanor turns 2!
11/15	Graham turns 3!
11/17	Roxanne turns 1!
11/19	Kinsley H. turns 2!
11/21	Kendall turns 1!
11/21	Nolan turns 5!
11/28	Aeryn turns 1!

USAA Child Development Center

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



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Through the curriculum *Toward a Better World*, teachers encourage a baby's natural sense of curiosity by guiding his exploration of the world around him. A quiet space in the infant classrooms for our newer infants is the triangle mirror. Here the infants can feel secure and watch and interact with the "other infant" in the mirror. When the infants begin to develop a sense of self, **they learn to** identify themselves in a mirror or photograph. **They learn it by** looking at themselves in a mirror or looking at family photos.



Toddler

Meaningful engagement in the arts allows children to make decisions, take action, think flexibly, learn about cause and effect, generate creative solutions, and begin to understand their physical capabilities. Ms. Savannah and Ms. Devin added zippered purses to the dramatic play center. The toddlers practiced zipping and unzipping while another toddler put clothes on her baby. When the toddlers participate in dramatic play, **they learn to** demonstrate the ability to use imagination in play. **They learn it by** using both open-ended props (fabric swatches, shoe boxes) and representational props (purses, baby clothes).



Transition

ArtSmart ensures that children are introduced to the visual arts, music, dance/creative movement, and drama. Recently, Ms. Danni created activities that included using different materials to make diverse prints. During the week, the two year olds used cars to drive through paint drops on paper, dipped dinosaur feet in paint and "walked their" dinosaur across their paper and even used their own feet to "dance" in the paint. Another print activity included using forks dipped in paint. Conor and Josiah shared the red and yellow paint. Conor told Josiah, "We don't eat the paint with the fork!" Josiah said, "Just paint!" When the two year olds participate in the visual arts, **they learn to** experiment with color and make deliberative markings. **They learn it by** exploring materials without teacher direction.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Preschool B

Math Counts offers a framework for developing the skills and abilities of young mathematicians, ensuring that children recognize math in everyday life. Preschool B has learned the song “Five Green and Speckled Frogs.” Not only have they learned about subtraction, but they also used the counting frogs to work on simple patterns. Ms. Reilly worked with a small group in the block area with the counting frogs. She set up simple patterns with each child in the group. Once she saw the child had master the pattern, Ms. Reilly would make the pattern more difficult. When the preschoolers participate in sorting and patterning activities, **they learn to** create and follow simple patterns. **They learn it by** placing the counting frogs in patterns.



“Five Green and Speckled Frogs”

Five green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log
Eating some most delicious bugs.
YUM! YUM!

One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Now there are four green speckled frogs!
GLUB! GLUB!

(Four green and speckled frogs.....
Three green and speckled frogs....
Two green and speckled frogs.....

One green and speckled frog
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs.
YUM! YUM!

One jumped into the pool,
Where it was nice and cool,
Now there are no green speckled frogs on the log!)

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Kindergarten Prep

Math Counts ensures that children don't simply learn numbers by rote but instead build mathematical understanding to develop quantitative reasoning, solve problems, and use math in real and meaningful ways. During open center time, Kaylee practiced putting the number puzzle together. Once she matched the number to the amount of items on the other puzzle piece, Ms. Barb helped her place them in numerical order. When the Kindergarten Prep children participate in numerical operations, **they learn to** demonstrate knowledge of number order and match sets to the corresponding numerals 1-10. **They learn it by** matching the number to the amount of items on the matching card.



EDUCATION NEWS

Learning a New Language: A Family Activity that Lasts a Lifetime

Our country is a beautiful melting pot of people from all over the world. As we know, there are many different languages spoken on earth. Being able to talk to each other is an essential path to build bridges. Also, having the ability to communicate with people who speak a different language encourages cross-cultural understandings, which opens the door to new friendships. Think about how welcome someone feels when your family smiles and says hello in their native language. Have you ever considered learning a foreign language along with your child?

Research shows that exposing young children to different languages taps into their innate ability to distinguish sounds, which enhances their growing cognitive skills. Because young children generally learn a new language more quickly than adults, your child might take the lead. There are many language learning opportunities online, from interactive exercises that teach language to watching YouTube videos. Some are even free, while others require purchasing a program. Two recommended websites:

Duolingo

www.duolingo.com offers interactive lessons in Spanish, French, Italian, German and Portuguese.

Mamma Lisa's World of Children and International Culture

www.mamalisa.com offers poems, songs, rhymes and traditions from around the world, in over 57 languages.

As you begin learning a language together, you might delve into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken, pick up children's books in that language or prepare a traditional recipe from that country.

Everything we do as a family builds a stronger, more caring, cohesive unit. Practicing a new language broadens our view of the world. It's fun and can be done anywhere: while taking walks, commuting, playing a game, listening to music, dancing, dining, reading bilingual books, and watching a movie.



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Thanksgiving Prep - Tips for Involving Kids



- 1) Make the cranberry sauce with the kids the weekend before Thanksgiving. It will keep and it allows you to include the children in the cooking process.
- 2) Have the kids make place cards together. Give them index cards, markers, crayons and stickers. Older children can write the names, inventive spelling and all, while younger children can decorate with stickers.
- 3) Try to find the easiest Thanksgiving worthy appetizers you can that the children can help prep by counting crackers, opening jars, and arranging plates.
- 4) Ask them to be taste testers and enjoy your Thanksgiving meal!

Podcasts for Parents on the Go

Did you know that Bright Horizons has a podcast? Navigate your parenting journey with our podcast series created with working parents in mind.

Tune into our podcast, ***The Work-Life Equation***, to hear about parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life. Whether you're a working or stay-at-home parent, you're likely always on-the-go. But throughout the daily hustle and bustle, you have questions, concerns, and simply need support.

Our parenting and education experts are here to help you navigate the parenting journey with an "on-the-go" podcast you can listen to when convenient for you.

Browse our episode selection at brighthorizons.com/family-resources/podcasts



Check out all the places you can connect with us!