



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT The Smucker child Development Center

From the Director

We are so grateful that we are able to ring in the New Year with so many wonderful families. Time flew by as we look back on all of the memories created in 2019. With a new year upon us we ask that you stop by the front desk to review and make updates to your child's file, if no updates are needed you will still need to initial your child's paperwork stating everything is up to date. Annual file reviews are required by the state of Ohio and Bright Horizons. We appreciate your help in keeping our center in compliance with state requirements.

With each passing year, we also ask families to give us important feedback and opinions about our center. This information helps us assess our strengths and identify areas for improvement. We are truly committed to providing the highest quality education for your child and we believe that every opinion counts. We graciously ask that you take a moment to click the link below to complete the survey. This survey will ultimately help us improve not only your child's educational journey with us, but the experience for the whole family.

brighthorizons.com/family-survey

Lastly, we would like to send a friendly reminder to all of our families that the winter season and cold weather has truly arrived. Please make sure that your child has readily available winter coats, gloves, hats, snow pants, and boots. Daily exploration of the outdoors is part of the curriculum and as long as weather permits.

We have so much on the horizon and as the New Year begins, we are so excited to be celebrating our 5 year anniversary here at The Smucker Child Development Center! Thank you for your partnership in making our center a wonderful place to learn and grow!

Here's to a wonderful 2020,
Dina, Farrah, and Nicole

Important Dates

January 1 – Center Closed
New Year's Day

January 2 – Parent Survey Goes Live

January 5 – Happy Anniversary SCDC!

January 20 – Center Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 24 – Scholastic Orders Due

January 31 – Final Day for Parent Survey

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday

Smucker Child Development Center- 5th
Tami- 8th
Kris- 17th
Katie S. 17th
Teresa- 28th

Happy Anniversary

Taylor 11years- 20th



Infant

Tummy time helps our little ones become stronger and it is one of the first steps to crawling. Using their animal fur board Room 1 friends were engaged by feeling the soft fur beneath them and were able to focus on the textures of the different animal prints.



Toddler

Do you want to build a snowman? Friends were able to decorate their own snowman in Room 5. They were provided with materials such as felt pieces and buttons to decorate the snowman's head and body. With this activity Room 5 was able to express their creativity while working on social skills like corporation, communication, and taking turns.



Preschool

Room 6 learned about the importance of proper hand washing. The class participated in an experiment, by shaking each other's hands that were covered in paint they were able to see how easily their germs (paint) spread to one another. After they were done, they practiced getting soap and making lots of bubbles so all the "germs" would wash off of their hands.



Kindergarten Prep

Room 7 friends moved their bodies in a variety of ways in movement matters! The classroom's fitness instructor led several group exercises. These exercises include yoga, cardio and strength exercises, and dancing. Moving our bodies in different ways demonstrates the various ways to keep ourselves healthy through movement and exercise!

Learning in the Outdoors and Nature



“Outdoor learning is every bit as important as traditional classroom elements like center time or group time. There’s always something changing in nature – trees, the leaves, mud, sand, an acorn falling -- if we just observe, ask questions, and grab hold of it.”

- Peggy Gerety, group VP, center operations at Bright Horizons

At Bright Horizons, we know how important outside time and nature learning are for young children. Ample time outdoors has been shown to boost both physical and emotional well-being and is even connected to positive school performance. Childhood experiences with nature build deep emotional and sensory connections that carry into adulthood—forging exactly the types of memories and feelings children need if they are to become conservation-minded adults. While there are times when the weather keeps us indoors, we try to make outdoor time a priority. We deeply appreciate your help in sending warm, durable clothing so children can play outside every day.

The three components of outdoor learning include **outdoor classrooms, nature exploration, and outdoor play**. Through outdoor classrooms, learning is extended to the world. Many of the activities and projects your child enjoys indoors, such as science, art, music, and building, can be done outside.

Through nature exploration, children develop deep connections with animals, plants, and the earth. In your child’s classroom, you might see natural materials, such as leaves, pods, seeds, sticks, stones, shells, or feathers, used indoors and out for a variety of purposes. You might notice books and images featuring the natural world or projects devoted to the study of nature. Children learn about plants, composting, and conservation through gardening projects and our Garden Works curriculum element. They begin to understand the scientific method as they observe and question topics like weather, properties of matter, and basic physics principles.

And through outdoor play, children take risks, test their strength, and build healthy minds and bodies. We know that children need time outdoors every day for active play. This might be playing a game of tag or jumping from rocks and stumps. It might be movement or mindfulness activities from our *Well Aware* curriculum element or a walk through the neighborhood.

Find the Latest Growing Readers Online



The Growing Readers program at Bright Horizon is a resource designed to help parents find great literature, share the joy of reading, cultivate an appreciation for books, and foster early literacy skills with your child. In case you missed it, the quarterly Growing Readers Review is now online!

This issue's featured Bright Horizons Book of Excellence Award winner is *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams*, which showcases two influential women athletes. For more about this book and the rest of this issue's book selections, visit brighthorizons.com/growingreaders.

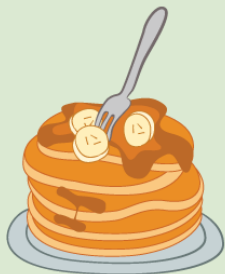
Teach. Play. Love. Featured Podcast Episode Build Healthy Habits Early

Healthy eating is an important part of your child's development. Nutrition impacts energy and brain function, so building healthy habits early on is key. But high cost and low availability of some foods, busy schedules, and picky eaters can throw a wrench in your healthy plans. Hear from Rachel Robertson, education and development vice president, and Ruth Fidino, senior education advisor, as they discuss how to make healthy eating fun, easy, and accessible.

Episode 13: Build Healthy Habits Early - brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastEp13

You can listen to this episode on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), [Google](#), and [Stitcher](#).

Cooking with School-Age Children



This is the age when children often really enjoy helping parents cook, planning menus and helping in the kitchen. Try activities such as:

- ▶ Pancakes or waffles (from either a mix or from scratch)
- ▶ Tuna or pasta salad
- ▶ Macaroni and cheese
- ▶ Cookies: allow your child to roll out the dough, use cookie cutters, make free-form shapes, and decorate before or after baking
- ▶ Sandwiches with lettuce, tomato, or another vegetable



Bright Horizons at The Smucker Child Development Center

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Monday – 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

