

Bright Horizons at Columbus Circle News

From the Director

Dear Columbus Circle Families,

I would first like to thank all of you for such a warm welcome over the past couple weeks. It has truly been a joy to meet all of you and your children – it's been so much fun to visit all the classrooms and get to know the kids! I am excited to get to know everyone better during my time here at the center.

I know that Allison will be deeply missed by all, as I can see all the wonderful relationships she has established. My goal is to make the transition as seamless as possible for both families and staff. Though my time at Columbus Circle will not be permanent, I do want to make as positive as an impact as possible while I am here.

Please know that my door is always open and I welcome your feedback, questions, comments, etc. at any time. Communication and transparency are of the upmost importance to me and I commit to making that a priority in working with each of you.

I can't wait to see, and participate, in all of the great, educational activities planned for the summer and I look forward to working with all of you to deliver the highest quality care possible!

Best,

TJ McNamara

Important Dates

July 4th – CLOSED for Independence Day

July 10th – Teddy Bear Picnic

July 17th – Family Partnership Group Call

July 20th – Parents' Night Out

Reasons to Celebrate

Birthdays:

Amber (7/24)

Anniversaries:

Angela – 4 years

Chanel – 1 year

Katherine – 2 years

Meylin – 2 years

Tiffany H. – 6 years

Tinika – 1 year

Bright Horizons at Columbus Circle

910 Ninth Ave, New York, NY 10019

212-399-3919 | columbuscircle@brighthorizons.com

Monday-Friday 7:00am-6:30pm



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Science Rocks

To celebrate summer, the Infants did different activities where the students used their senses and engaged in active exploration. In doing this, we learn to use our senses to explore the properties of an object. We learn this by using toys and materials with varied textures and properties. In particular, we used the Fill N' Fun Water Play Mat. During this activity they had the opportunity to splash and see different colored fish. For younger children they also did belly time to strengthen their back and neck muscles.



Math Counts

Math is a thrilling way for Toddlers to make sense of their world. Toddlers learn to understand concepts such as under/over, inside/outside, on/off, and up/down. We can learn this through moving objects through simple obstacles and describing their actions, by playing and exploring how different things work, and using developmentally appropriate toys/tools. In this activity the children are exploring vehicles of different kinds from trucks, to cars, and even a helicopter. They use gross and fine motor skills to move, push, and pull the vehicles in different directions.



Art Smart

In honor of Father's Day, our Young Preschool children decorated construction paper in the shape of dress shirts for their dad. Students used markers and age appropriate materials to create shirts and Treasure Boxes. While building on our artistic competencies, we learn to use art materials and tools purposefully and creatively. We learn this by using varied materials and tools, such as scissors, paints, crayons, etc.



Well Aware

To kick off the first day of summer our adventurers journeyed to the Sprinkler Park on 59th Street across from John Jay College. We learned to strengthen and refine our large muscle skills and participate in physical activities with peers. We learn this by engaging in physical activities, as well as by engaging in a variety of cooperative physical games and activities.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Homegrown Readers

It's never too early to start "growing readers"! Research has shown that children who have a close adult who reads to and with them -- especially in the very early years -- learn language and literacy skills, develop an appreciation of books, and experience stronger family relationships.

Reading with your child can be one of the most rewarding and memorable ways to spend time together. In addition to having lasting effects on cognitive, language, and literacy development, sharing books inspires your child's curiosity and creativity. Cuddling up with a book is an intimate activity that builds strong, loving, lifelong bonds.

A few tips for reading with your child:

- Designate a regular time and place to curl up together with a book. Invite your child to select books but also introduce new stories.
- Before you begin a new book, talk about the title, the cover, the author, and the illustrator. Ask thought-provoking questions about the book. "What do you think this story is about?"
- Understand that young children love to hear the same stories over and over again. Repetition provides a level of comfort and enables children to become the experts on the storyline. Also, it allows them to get familiar with the words, and eventually "read" the book to you.
- Make reading interactive; ask questions such as, "What do you think happens next in the story?" Or "How would you handle this situation?" It's interesting to hear your child's impression of the story.
- Expand your child's horizons. When your child develops a new interest, go to the library and find books on that subject.
- Have fun and be playful! When you read aloud, try to make your voice exciting and dramatic for the different parts of the story.

There is so much multicultural, informative, historical, traditional, silly, experiential, and even futuristic literature for young children these days. Refer to "Bright Horizons Growing Readers" to access family resources, books suggestions, at-home reading activities, and tips on reading aloud.

www.brighthorizons.com/childrenbooks



Education & Development

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learning at Home: Summer Activity

Our Learning at Home ideas offer parents fun ways to extend their child's learning opportunities beyond the classroom to take advantage of teachable moments that naturally emerge from everyday life situations.

Beach in a Bottle – Suitable for Kindergarten, Multi-Age, Preschool, School Age, Toddler, Twos

You will need:

A trip to the beach, lake or creek, and supplies: plastic bottle, super glue, permanent marker, and a label

Directions:

Have your child fill the bottle with sand and water from the beach, along with their favorite sea shells or small pieces of driftwood. Seal the top using super glue (keep the glue out of your child's reach and let the bottle dry before using it with them). Label with the date and location of your outing.



New Parenting Podcast Episode! Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays

We've all been there... the get-out-the-door chaos, the after-work frenzy, those toddler-parent moments when things just seem to go kaboom! Is there a better way? Parenting expert and psychologist Jennifer Gillette says unequivocally... yes.

On this episode of the *Work-Life Equation*, Gillette has the tips, tricks, and strategies to tame the tantrums and put what she calls Peaceful Parenting back into your busy day.

[Ep. 17: Peaceful Parenting on Busy Workdays](http://www.brighthouse.com/peacefulparenting)
www.brighthouse.com/peacefulparenting