



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Clever Kids Learning Center

From the Director

Please help us reach our 100% goal of return for the Parent Satisfaction Survey! Details are at the end of this newsletter. The survey is open from January 2 through 31, 2019.

I would like to remind parents that Clever Kids is a “Nut Safe” center. This is an environment where peanuts, nuts (all tree nuts) or any products that may contain nuts are prohibited from entering the center. (This may be why some of you witnessed teachers running to their cars with your great holiday gift! If it contained nuts, it is not allowed in the center!) Although it is not certain why, there is an increase in the number of children acquiring peanut and nut allergies. As a result, we have many children in the Bright Horizons’ centers with nut allergies that can be severe or even life-threatening. Clever Kids does have several diagnosed nut allergies. With our population of very young children, some allergies may not yet have been identified. Maintaining a Nut Safe environment is in the best interest of all the children in attendance. Most parents are aware of not bringing birthday treats with any type of nut and no longer provide almond milk for their own children. Some parents have also been asked to replace sunscreens and lotions that are processed in a factory that may also process nut products. Please keep in mind that teacher treats must be nut safe as well!

You might have observed that all classrooms are now using placemats in line with the Bright Horizons’ allergy management system. Placemats are blue (no allergies), green (for preference) or red (for a diagnosed allergy) to help all staff covering the classroom be aware of any health concerns.

Dates of Closure for 2019

- Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day
- Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King Day
- Feb. 18 – Presidents’ Day
- May 27 – Memorial Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 – Federal Observance of Christmas

Special Events

- Entire Center: January 2 – 31, 2019
Parent Satisfaction Survey taken online at:
brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey
- Infant 2: Friday, January 25, 2019
9:00 – 10:00 A.M. Snow/Water Play with Parents

Toddler 2

Goodbye 2018 and hello 2019! We hope all of you enjoyed all of the holidays your family celebrates and we are so excited to start another year with your child! And while some things change, like the year, other things will not. For example, the children in our care will continue to grow and we will continue to help them reach their next milestone to our best ability.

They come to us as “new toddlers” and experience a whole new world with different toys, teachers, friends and daily activities. Our first goal always is to invite them in with a warm welcome and help them establish good relationships with their teachers and peers, with the hope that they quickly learn to trust us.

Once we have built a strong foundation on trust we get to experience the best part of our job. That is, we get to watch the learning unfold before our very eyes. We watch babbling infants grow into talking toddlers, who play in groups, express strong emotions, and learn skills that will help them become independent.

Toddlers learn so much every day but if there is one thing that stands out more than others it is independence. We constantly hear toddlers use the word, “no” and that is because they are learning how to assert their independence. They learn how to be independent by exploring the environment they are in and testing their boundaries. This is part of the reason why toddlers are so “hard.” They continuously test their limits in the environment that they are in.

Toddlers are naturally curious and interested in what happens next so it is important that we set the environment up with intention so that they are able to gain independence. We allow them to freely explore the classroom environment and engage in activities such as role playing, exploring books with and without a teacher, practicing songs/finger plays, and so much more. However, we also provide them with routine so they know what to expect next and boundaries that revolve around safety.

We phrase things in a positive manner as opposed to using that dreadful word, “no” that we don’t like to hear. More specifically, if we notice a child is being unsafe by running in the room we say, “walking feet,” instead of “no running.” Remember that children learn the most by their role models (family, teachers, and peers) so the more we say no, the more they will say it too!

In addition to taking great care of your child, we will continue to maintain on-going, two-way communication with every family. So be sure to continue reading the newsletter, checking our parent board, and talking with us as much as possible. We look forward to watching your child or children grow and learn each and every day! Here’s to a wonderful start to 2019!

-Ms. Ava and Ms. Georgia



Preschool West

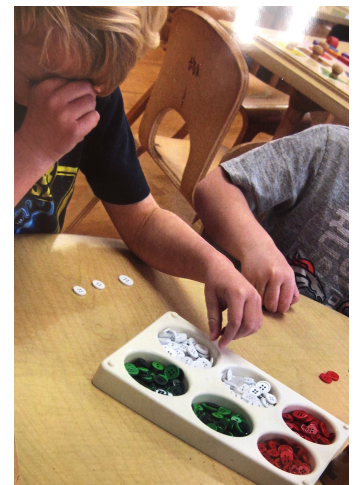
The Preschool West classroom has been busy making ornaments. They were a lot of fun for the kids to make and they also built a lot of skills! Sorting and counting buttons, measuring how tall they were, painting and glittering large ball ornaments, tracing and cutting, or figuring out how to fit large foam hearts into a little plastic ornament. As December arrived the children had a total of 7 ornaments made to give their parents! The children were so proud of their gift. That was not all oh, no that was not all... We held an ornament party where the children and their parents made a keepsake ornament together! Earlier that day the children made a cheese ball tree for snack. Vegetables and dip were added for healthy measure and it wouldn't be a party without sugar, so we served punch...this provided more language skills as we discussed how there are two meanings for the word "punch". Remember young children are still literal thinkers so having punch at a party was not a good thing at first! Hahaha!

Parent involvement is important for children. It builds strong relationships and collaboration between teachers and parents, builds self-esteem and school readiness and establishes the importance of education. Forming networks, gaining knowledge about your child and establishing friendships are just a few of the benefits to parents. We want to thank all who attended our ornament party and made it such a big success. We hope you enjoy the ornaments for many years to come!

A big thanks to all our parents for their support and thoughtfulness in the past year. We hope you had happy holidays and wish you the best in 2019!

Ms. Nikki and Ms. Evelyn

P.S. Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing and snow gear for the winter weather. It is very important to label everything since these items are often similar and sometimes the same as other children have.



Giving Gifts from the Heart

Have you considered that generosity is a learned behavior that delights the givers as well as the receivers? By making gifts and cards for others, children experience the intrinsic joy of giving something they have created.

It's easy for adults to decide what to make and which materials to use. But remember, this is an offering from children. Within the realm of available resources, help them develop their ideas. Inspire their thoughts about the recipient. "What do you think you'd like to make for Aunt Alice?" "What does she like to do?" Remember, it's what children create that counts; suggest they draw pictures and dictate their sentiments.

In addition to family and friends, think about people beyond those we typically hold near and dear to us. Cards, artwork, and crafts made by children are a heartfelt way to say you care and show appreciation to military personnel, firefighters, police officers, librarians, residents in nursing homes, and others in the community.

Children are very resourceful and might have their own ideas for gifts. Below are a few simple gift suggestions to consider:

Picture frames

Children glue four wooden tongue depressors together to make a frame and then decorate the frame with paint, and add recycled materials such as odd puzzle pieces, small pieces of paper or fabric, and twigs. Be aware of choking hazards with young children.

Decorative boxes

Children paint recycled or purchased wooden/cardboard boxes and then decoupage photographs from magazines or photos of themselves onto the surfaces.

Sculptures

Children can create sculptures using commercial or home-made clays, wood, or recycled objects. Be sure to have lots of glue on hand.

Paper holders

These might be as simple as finding a unique rock, painting it, and using glue to attach a clothespin. A second option is to glue wood scraps together, paint the sculpture and add one or two clothespins to the top.

Planters

Children paint pots and use Mod Podge (purchased at a craft shop) to attach colorful tissue paper (cut into small squares). Another option is to use photographs and pictures from magazines.

Jewelry

Children make necklaces or bracelets by stringing commercial or homemade beads. They can create pins by gluing found objects (such as loose puzzle pieces or Legos) to a pin back and painting over the creation.

2019 Parent Satisfaction Survey

We value your feedback!

Each year, we 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.

The survey is available from January 2nd – 31st. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts!

brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey

Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

Building Your Parenting Village



Overwhelmed by working parenthood? Stop trying to do it all alone. “People say I need help, but I don’t know where to get it,” says our guest Daisy Dowling. Get Daisy’s tips on who to ask for help, how to rally your village of volunteers, and why her secret isn’t doing more — but getting more done.

Ep. 22: Building Your Parenting Village

brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep22

Bright Horizons at Clever Kids Learning Center

Building 64 Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO, 80225

303-236-9400 | www.brighthorizons.com/cleverkids

Monday – Friday, 6:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.

