



BRIGHT HORIZONS AT Clever Kids Learning Center

From the Director

The week of April 8 through 12 has been designated the 2019 Week of the Young Child. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) began this recognition several decades ago to spotlight the importance of this significant and unique time in human development. The ages of birth through 8 are widely recognized as the early childhood years. They are years when we develop trust in adults by having positive interactions with those in charge of protecting us. And among other things, we learn how to navigate the world around us that is full of new experiences every day.

An aspect of the NAEYC intent was to spotlight the influence of caregivers in quality child care centers. I am very proud to work with our quality teachers who have provided such loving and long-term care for those of you who have chosen Clever Kids. The Week of the Young Child is a time I choose to recognize the staff anniversaries that are celebrated in 2019. They are truly significant in comparison to many child care centers, and I know I would not have been here my 26 years without them! Nikki will also celebrate 26 years, followed by Iwona at 25. Michelle & Meg are 23 years, Edna is 20, and Nicole is 13. Sharon and Ava celebrate 12, Georgia is 11 (this time around), Kathy is 10 and Kim is 9. Elizabeth is 7 years, Yukiko and Evelyn are 6, Gaylynn 5, Kelsey 4, and Denise celebrates 3. Those who will spend 1 year with us are Carrie, Lisa (this time around), Alex and Tomma.

Very impressive! And so much appreciated!

Special Events & Forward Planning

- April 8th – 12th – NAEYC's Week of the Young Child
- Friday, April 12th – All Center Ice Cream Social
- Friday, May 10th - Annual Trike a Thon for
Preschool North, East, and West classrooms only!
This will be our 14th year, we've raised a total of \$27,161.96!
- Friday, May 17th – Preschool North Graduation
- Thursday, May 23rd – Preschool West Graduation
- Thursday, May 30th – Preschool East Graduation

Dates of Closure for 2019

- May 27 – Memorial Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 – Federal Observance of Christmas

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The Preschool North, East and West classrooms are offering conferences during the month of April. Please note the sign-up sheets in the individual classrooms. This is your opportunity to speak with your child's teacher - uninterrupted!

Open House

The general public has been invited through the Bright Horizons' websites to visit the center to see the curriculum in action. April 16 through 19, Tuesday through Friday, visitors will be allowed to drop in to tour the preschool classrooms and ask questions about the activities teachers do with the preschool children. If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in enrolling for the Fall of 2019, there should be openings for children who are 3, 4 or 5 and fully potty- trained. Once the kindergarteners go off to school and the younger children move into North, East and West we expect to have some spaces available. The Open House hours are from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. so as not to interrupt lunch and nap for our children.

Problem Solving: From Infancy to Preschool

Kids and adults alike face a variety of problems everyday. Those problems range from social issues such as, “she doesn’t want to be my friend,” to other cognitive problems like, “I can’t find my keys,” or “this math equation is too hard.” No matter what the problem is, the hope is that all people, young and old, have the skills necessary to solve whatever challenges come their way.

Everyday, the staff at Clever Kids is working diligently to ensure that infants, toddlers, and preschoolers have opportunities to practice problem solving. Unfortunately, that sometimes means we have to allow children to fail. That sounds rather harsh when it is said like that but it’s the truth.

For example, when an infant is learning to walk we allow them to fall down, in a safe way of course! The problem for the infant in the top picture is learning to walk. Walking requires a lot of balance and coordination and if we catch babies every time they begin to fall, they don’t learn their limits. So in reality, children learn to walk and they learn it by failing many times over and over!

Here is an example of a teacher offering a toddler support with a cognitive problem. Carter wanted to put the side onto the wagon, but couldn’t figure out why it wouldn’t fit. When he got frustrated he stopped and tried handing it to Ms. Nicole. “Help, can’t do it Ms. Nicole,” “Carter you can do it, why don’t you try to turn it around?” Carter did and he was able to fix it. He immediately got a huge smile on his face and pushed the wagon around, looking proud.

The following toddler social problem was simply solved by an interest in other things but not before the teacher tried modeling some language that could have been used. Isla was playing on the bike outside, she got frustrated when she couldn’t get into the house. Ida came over pushing it. Isla thought that Ida was taking it and started screaming and crying. Ms. Nicole walked over and told Isla, “Ida doesn’t understand why you are screaming. Try saying, “mine,” Ida got bored and decided to walk away. Isla was happy and went along with trying to get the bike into the house.

Teachers and caregivers play a big role in helping children learn to be successful problem solvers. Whether they are modeling appropriate language, giving them tools and techniques to help move things along, being a cheerleader when things get exciting, or a referee when things get a little rocky. Regardless of how we get there, we know we have done our job well when we see a couple of preschoolers solving a complex problem all on their own. Here is one of those instances: the two boys in the last two pictures were playing with some pine needles. The pine needles got stuck on the top of the tent. One boy said, “Ah man, our pine needles got stuck we need to get a ladder.” The other boy said, “but we don’t have a ladder. I know, we can throw a ball and hit it off of the top.” “Yeah that’s a great idea!” So, they tried throwing it on the top. When they discovered that didn’t work, they figured out they can throw the ball under the tent and knock it off. When they were successful they continued to do it as a game. It was really fun to watch and fantastic to know that the children in our care have learned to be successful problem solvers and they learned it by having supportive teachers and caregivers who give just the right amount of support!



It's all in the Family! Activities to Build Memories

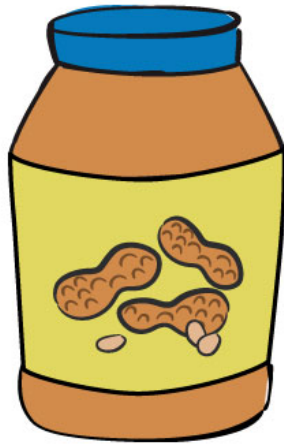
Enjoying family activities is a precious gift to give our children and ourselves. Time with people we love fosters feelings of belonging and intimacy, builds trust, instills a sense of security, and creates lifelong memories. Below are fun, inexpensive activities for all ages:

- ▶ **Gaze at stars:** Explain to children that stars form patterns that we call constellations and then research them online and in books. Go outside on a clear evening and try to identify constellations or have fun making up your own. Draw the formations on paper or lay them out using pipe cleaners and small rocks. With younger children, focus on the shape of the moon.
- ▶ **Visit farmers markets:** An excursion to a farmers market provides an opportunity to smell the scents of fresh produce, enjoy tasty samples of nutritious foods, hear local musicians playing music, and participate in the coming together of the community.
- ▶ **Go for a hike or walk:** Hiking or walking connects family members to nature, as well as each other. On walks, you might take photographs, collect special rocks, leaves, and sticks, or just enjoy the world's natural wonders and time with each other.
- ▶ **Institute a family fitness program:** This could include age/stage-appropriate push-ups, sit-ups, stretching, walking, hopping, skipping, jumping, or jogging. Family members might keep a fitness log, use a pedometer to count steps, or count your heartbeats before and after exercise.
- ▶ **Volunteer:** Have you considered making volunteering part of your family culture? Adults inspire empathy and compassion by volunteering as a family at a soup kitchen, nursing home, homeless shelter, or other local organizations. For activity suggestions browse sites such as Doing Good Together: doinggoodtogether.org.
- ▶ **Build a cozy fort:** You might use branches and wood, blankets and chairs, or a giant carton (from an appliance store), to design a cozy den. After you build this comfy place to congregate, your family can cuddle up to read, snack, tell stories, or play games.

All the activities above enhance relationships because family members enjoy simple activities, share rewarding adventures, and make memories.

Infant 1 and Infant 2

Let's give our youngest learners a jumpstart on language development. Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles... please stop by to read a book or two to our infants during the Week of the Young Child. Anytime between 9:30 and 3:30 would be best for us. Please let us know if you can come on by!



Preschool West

Are you doing any spring cleaning? Well, grab a box and donate it! For Work Together Wednesday we are hosting a donation drive for the Jeffco Action Center. Please bring in any canned goods, new or gently used clothing, personal hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, household items, or even school supplies. We will be taking items starting Wednesday, April 10th through Monday, April 15th!

Preschool North

We have recruited some volunteers to come play music with the kids, cook with the kids, and do some art with the kids! We cannot wait to see how it all turns out!



ALL CENTER EVENT

Family Friday

The Week of the Young Child will come to a close on Friday, April 12. Please join us from 3:30 to 4:30 for an old-fashioned ice cream social. This is a center-wide event to enjoy a small snack and a chance to visit with other parents in your child's classroom. We will provide the ice cream and toppings (no nuts, of course!) and hope you can schedule in time to join your child and his or her classmates!

There is an activity on the next page that is titled "What's in a Name?" If you would like to participate, please complete your page, bring it to the ice cream social, and we'll share those pages with each other. After the social, we'll keep the pages for display within the center.

Hope to see you on Friday the 12th!

What's in a Name?

Your child has a name...
Why did you choose this name?
What does it mean in translation?

We would love for you to share!

Please take some time, use your own paper – any color but please make it 8 ½ x 11 so we can turn it into a coffee table book when we are finished.

Get Crafty, add pictures and/or anecdotes, or just give a simple explanation of your child's name. We are all unique for many reasons, and our names often mean so much more than people know!

This is an optional center-wide project. We hope you choose to participate and bring it with you to the center-wide ice cream social on Friday, April 12th from 3:30 – 4:30!



Bright Horizons at Clever Kids Learning Center
Building 64 Denver Federal Center Lakewood, CO 80225
303-236-9400 | www.brighthorizons.com/cleverkids
Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

