

USAA Child Development Center

News

From the Director

Thank you to all our dad's for all you do and for coming to our Donuts for Dad's!



Happy July – we are having a fun summer so far with Splash days and fun Guest Speakers. The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo visited our Preschool, KP and Summer Camp classrooms. We also enjoyed Kona Ice, a Police Officer and Fireman visitor!

We welcome new staff, Miss Mary, Miss Emily and Miss Danni, as well as some subs that you will see occasionally... Miss Tanesha and Miss Jennifer.

We will continue our Splash Days and some fun new activities. Remember your child's swim clothes as well as an extra set of summer clothes for their cubby.

This month we are going to start a Family Partnership Group – if you are interested in helping to support the school and offer ideas. We are going to meet on July 26th from 12:00-12:30 p.m. to brainstorm the upcoming school year.



Important Dates

- 7/3: Red, White, & Blue Day
- 7/4: Center is closed for Independence Day
- 7/13: Teddy Bear Picnic
- 7/25: Grab & Go Breakfast
- 7/26: Parent Meeting 12:00-12:30

Reasons to Celebrate

- 7/3: Grace turns 3!
- 7/7: Cairo turns 5!
- 7/12: Brooklyn turns 3!
- 7/19: Greyson turns 2!
- 7/24: Lukela turns 1!

USAA Child Development Center

1855 Telstar Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

719-533-8280 | usaaco@brighthorizons.com

Monday – Friday & 6:30 am – 6:30pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

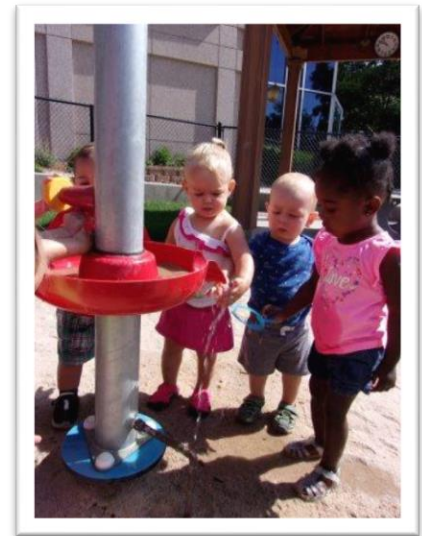
Infant

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. Lukela interacts with Isaac while he eats. When the infants begin to build social relationships, **they learn to** purposefully interact with peers. **They learn it by** playing near their peers in a carpeted or cushioned open space.



Toddler

Through the curriculum *Science Rocks*, teachers help children become skilled observers, inquisitive investigators, and lifelong researchers. The toddlers have recently started exploring water play outside. It took no time for Greyson to figure out how to push the knob to turn the water on. While the water started to fill the circular table, Ms. Rosie asked the children, "Where do you think the water will come out when the table fills up?" Olivia, Rylen, and Kinsley curiously watched as the water filled the circular table and the water rushed out the spout. The toddlers screamed with excitement as they felt the water run over their hands. When the toddlers participate in simple problem-solving skills, **they learn to** explore possible solutions before attempting to solve a problem. **They learn it by** exploring answers to question such as "What do you think will happen?"



Transition

Through the curriculum *Science Rocks*, teachers carefully plan science experiments for the 2 year olds that not only introduce scientific concepts and facts but also nurture curiosity, wonder, engagement with the natural world, and critical world. Ms. Sam found materials around the classroom. A small group of children sat around a container of water adding an object at a time to see if it sank or float. Brooklyn stated, "The apple floats!" When the 2 year olds participate in active questioning, **they learn to** question when exploring materials. **They learn it by** describing and discussing their observations and experiences with teacher.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

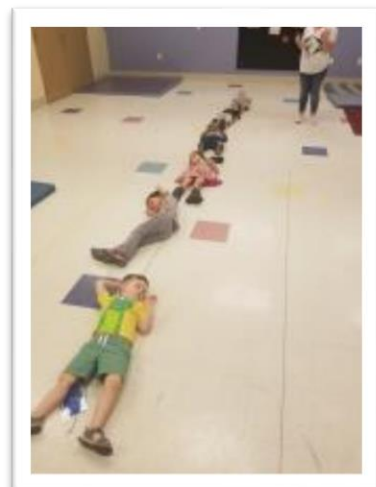
Preschool A

Preschool children are constantly engaged in research and experimentation. *Science Rocks* in Preschool A when the children study about butterflies. Caterpillars arrived to the classroom early Monday morning. The children helped move the small caterpillars into the butterfly net. While outside on the playground, the children helped to find twigs, leaves, and rocks to place in the net. After a couple of days, the children made observations that the caterpillars had crawled onto the lid and some had started to make cocoons. A few days later, butterflies emerged. They were slow to move, flapping their wings to dry. Soon, the butterflies were flying freely around the net, ready to be let out on the trail next to the playground. When the preschoolers investigate properties, **they learn it** understand the life cycle of living things. **They learn it by** observing the life cycle of butterflies.



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 presents Shark Week! The children were introduced to nine different types of sharks and were asked to choose and graph their favorite. Once the graph was complete, the Preschool B classroom studied those sharks that were most popular. They learned the sharks names, what they ate, where they lived, and even how large they were; using their own bodies to measure out how long each of their favorite sharks. When the preschoolers begin to understand numbers and measurement, **they learn to** count sequentially and identify numbers as well as use nonstandard units of measure. **They learn it by** making a bar graph of their favorite sharks and by using their bodies to “measure” how long the sharks were.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Family Traditions Celebrate Life!

Regardless of the size of your family, traditions are a meaningful way to create cohesiveness, forge fond memories, and celebrate life. Meg Cox, the author of *The Book of New Family Traditions*, defines family traditions as “any activity you purposefully repeat together as a family that includes heightened attentiveness and something extra that lifts it above the ordinary ruts.”

Many of us smile when we think about our childhood traditions. We might remember Sunday afternoon walks, game or movie nights, holiday preparations, special family hugs, or a secret family handshake. Often the activity is secondary; it's the being together and sharing a custom that lives in our hearts.

Below are a few ideas for fun family traditions that you can start this year.

Commemorate a special day by planting a tree.

Be it Thanksgiving, Earth Day, or to celebrate a holiday, planting a tree together connects us to nature, and produces an everlasting keepsake. Think of the library you can create by videoing and discussing the experience.

Designate a game night.

A weekly game night brings everyone together for relaxed fun. Game suggestions include Apples to Apples Junior; Don't Wake Daddy; Bingo; Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat; and Guess Who? You might play action games, such as Charades, Twister, Hide and Seek, and Freeze Tag.

Compose family newsletters.

Rather than adults writing an annual letter, all family members can participate by talking about their year. Young children might depict their news by drawing, painting, and taking photographs.

Connect with residents in a nursing home.

Developing a relationship with people in a nursing home enriches the lives of the residents, makes your family feel good, and helps raise children with grateful hearts. Perhaps plan monthly visits and share stories, make cards, bake treats, or simply sit and hold someone's hand.

As you plan the tradition, eliminate distractions, and reserve the time as you would any meaningful activity. Remember that family traditions are about enjoying time together. As Michael J. Fox says, “Family is not an important thing. It's everything.”

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

Need help taming your child's tantrums? Turn those parenting lemons into lemonade!

It might not seem like it, but your child is more predictable than you think—and each stage of your child's development, along with every meltdown, is a gateway to skill-building for your little one.

Hear from early childhood experts Ellen Galinsky, the Chief Science Officer at the Bezos Family Foundation and Executive Director at Mind in the Making, and Rachel Robertson, the Education and Development Vice President at Bright Horizons, as they discuss common parenting challenges and the science behind parenting that can turn frustration into great skills for life.

You can subscribe to the Bright Horizons Family Matters Podcast through iTunes, Google Play Music, SoundCloud, Stitcher Radio, and RSS. Learn more by visiting the link below.



Podcast: Lemons to Lemonade with Four Ingredients

brighthouse.com/lemonstolemonade



Check out all the places you can connect with us!