

Bright Horizons at Landmark News

From the Director

Dear Landmark families and faculty,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and relaxing with friends and family. I want to give a huge thank you to all of the families came out and helped celebrate with our Annual Family Event. It was a fun-filled day with face painting, drumming, bubbles, and beach games. The weather held off and the party was a great success.

We have continued to improve the center with facility upgrades and I thank you for being patient with us as we make these much needed changes. Our security system has been installed on the front gate that leads to the parking lot. We can now see who we are letting into the center using a security camera and monitor system. You have noticed the reception area has changed drastically and we will be removing the cabinets around the check in kiosk in the near future.

I want to say goodbye to the families and staff that will be leaving the center at the end of the summer. It has been a wonderful experience working with and building strong relationships with each of you. We are happy to be welcoming new families to the center at the beginning of September and into the early fall months.

I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer!

Best,

Katie

Important Dates

Infant Parent Breakfast and Baby
Sign Language Workshop:
Tuesday, August 28, 2018 from
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Curriculum Night: Wednesday,
September 5, 2018 from 6:00
p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Reasons to Celebrate

Sharon (Infant 4)- 25 Years

Nicole (Kindergarten Prep)- 1 Year

Mayerlin (Toddler 3)- 1 Year

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant Two

The children in Infant Two have been participating in various **Science Rocks** activities all month. In one particular activity, the children used their senses to explore different textures. During this activity, the children actively explored with finger paint and colored sand. The colored sand provided a gritty texture for the children to explore. The children used their hands and fingers to squeeze and squish the paint, which helped develop their fine motor skills. As the children were exploring, they also smeared the paint and sand onto the sensory tray. The children made new colors as they mixed and mashed the paints together, which allowed them to witness the concept of cause and effect.



Infant Three

This month the children in Infant Three have been using their creativity and imagination while participating in various **Art Smart** activities. During one activity, the children were given bright, vibrant inkpad color palettes to explore. The children were engaged while using their fingers as a tool to explore the cool, squishy texture of the inkpad. This activity allowed the children to use multiple senses as they explored the stamps and inkpad. The children also used their hands and fingers to grasp and grip the knobs of the stamps, which helped develop their small muscle skills.



Infant Four

This month the children in Infant Four have been spending time out on the playground as a **Well Aware** activity. Going outside is a great way for infants to develop physical strength in their large and small muscles. While outside, the children used their large muscles to practice pulling up and rolling over. The children also got in some tummy time and explored additional materials, such as bubbles, books, and soft toys that helped develop their small muscle skills. On warmer days, the children got to do water play, which allowed them to use their hands and fingers to splash and explore the water.



Infant Five

This month the children in Infant Five engaged in sensory rich **Science Rocks** activities. One activity that particularly engaged the children was when they made “goop.” Goop is made from corn starch and water. The children got to witness the concept of cause and effect when they saw the goop go from a liquid to a solid. The children then used their hands and fingers to explore the cool texture of the goop and manipulate it, which helped develop their fine motor skills. When children explore a variety of objects, such as goop, they learn how to use their senses to explore the properties of different objects.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Toddler One

This month the children in Toddler One have been exploring their senses by participating in various Science Rocks activities. During one activity, the children used their fine motor skills to help their teachers mix corn meal and brown paint to make “dirt” in the sensory table. The children then added toy bugs and used shovels to “dig” up the bugs. Using the shovels to dig up the bugs helped the children learn how to use an object as a tool to complete a task. As the children were digging and exploring, they used their language skills to discuss what they were doing and which bugs they found with their teachers and classmates. This helped increase the children’s vocabulary and confidence while speaking.



Toddler Two

The children in Toddler Two put their culinary skills to the test when they made pizza earlier this month. Before they started cooking, the children talked about the different ingredients they will be using, which allowed them to develop their vocabulary skills. The children then got to use their fine motor skills to explore the different textures of the ingredients. When it was time to start cooking, the children used their listening skills to follow simple directions on what to do. When the pizza came out of the oven, the children got to witness how it turned out, and then eat with their peers. Sharing experiences like this with peers helps build relationships and cooperation skills.



Toddler Three

This month the children in Toddler Three were engaged while mixing colors and using rolling pins to paint. As the children used their fine motor skills to mix colors together, they witnessed the cause and effect of dipping the rolling pins in paint and then using the pins to create images. As the children were painting, they discussed what colors they were using with their teachers, which allowed them to practice their vocabulary. The children also dipped their hands into the paint so they could explore the texture using their senses. When children explore different textures and use different drawing tools to create art, they develop their imagination and creativity skills.



Toddler Four

This month the children in Toddler Four participated in a hide-and-seek activity. Toy animals were hidden in shredded, colorful strips of paper in the sensory table. The children then took turns reaching for and finding the animals. As the children found and pulled out each animal, we said the name of the animal and the sound that they make in order to increase vocabulary and speaking skills. The children then sang “Old MacDonald” with their teachers and added in the animals that were pulled from the sensory table. This activity allowed the children to use their cognitive skills to look for hidden objects and use their speaking skills to discuss the activity with their peers and teachers.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Toddler Five

This month the children in Toddler Five developed their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination skills as they built with toy gears. When children explore objects, such as toy gears, with their hands they are learning how to develop self-awareness. As the children were building, they picked which gears they wanted to use based on color, which taught them how to make decisions for themselves and expanded their vocabularies. When the children were exploring gears they were also exploring the pre-math skill that allows us to create and repeat patterns.



Preschool Two

The children in Preschool Two have been learning about mold. Last month the children observed whether cheese or bread would mold first as a **Math Counts** and **Science Rocks** choice. Over the next month, the children made a table to document any changes that occurred to the cheese and bread that was on the window and the cheese and bread that sat on a table. Once mold had formed on the cheese and bread on the desk, the children practiced discussing what they observed by having a small discussion about their observations as a **Language Works** choice. The children then cut small pieces off and took a closer look at the mold using magnifying glasses.



Preschool Three

This month, the children in Preschool Three have been learning about community helpers to build off of what they learned about construction trucks last month. In order to increase speaking skills and confidence, the children had discussions about what they want to be when they grow up. As a **Handwriting without Tears** choice, the children made their own community helper classroom book that told what each child wanted to be. In a small group, the children played a matching game that allowed the children to learn about the types of uniforms and equipment some community helpers use.



Kindergarten Prep

The children in Kindergarten –Prep have been learning about ladybugs after doing a study on insects last month. The children used their fine motor skills to write sentences with teacher support, if needed, about what they learned as a **Handwriting without Tears** choice. The children wrote about what they observed from the ladybug life cycle house or what they read from educational books in order to teach the children how to document their observations and ideas. In order to increase the children's speaking skills, they learned new vocabulary words as they watched the ladybugs grow from an egg. The children also drew the different stages of a ladybug as an **Artsmart** choice.



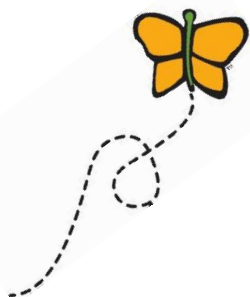
READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Is Your Child Begging for a Pet? Alternatives to Dogs and Cats

Thoughts of snuggling with kittens and tumbling with puppies make many of us want to bring home a zoo. But then we face reality. How long will the pet be alone every day? Can we afford the cost of food and care? Can the adults in the family deal with one more thing?

All pets require attention and care; however, some pets need less maintenance than cats, dogs, or rabbits. Before considering bringing a pet into your home, learn about its habitat and needs. Also consider the ages, abilities, interests, and schedules of family members.

Below are a few ideas for lower maintenance (not no maintenance) pets:



- Birds are social and live predominantly in cages. Many species talk and sing!
- Geckos and lizards are low-maintenance and interesting, but they may not be a good pet for young children because they eat live crickets and require very gentle handling.
- Fish are fun to learn about, watch, and name. Tanks come with lids, which protect them from toddlers.
- Hamsters and gerbils can be cuddly, playful, and amusing; however, they often have short lifespans.

If your child is asking for a pet, explain the reasons you need to say “no.” Starting by discussing what’s involved in caring for a pet teaches children valuable lessons about planning and being purposeful. Also, there are positive aspects to learning how to deal with disappointment.

In homes where children grow up happily without pets, family animal lovers can still experience the joy of bonding with and caring for animals by volunteering at a local human society, pet sitting for friends and family, or walking dogs for neighbors.

Bright Horizons Teachers Can Get Their Degree for Free!

Our teachers provide a great education to your children every day and they deserve that same gift in return. We are proud to offer our teachers the best benefits in our industry so they can build a career with Bright Horizons while they continue their education.

On July 11 we launched the **Bright Horizons Early Education Degree Achievement Plan**. Through this new benefit, all full-time employees in Bright Horizons centers and schools are now eligible to earn their associate and bachelor’s degrees in early childhood education completely free with no-out of pocket costs.

Employees are eligible to start on their first day of employment with Bright Horizons. Hundreds of teachers have already signed up to start the program this fall.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

A Message from Stephen Kramer, Bright Horizons CEO

Bright Horizons Families—

Two weeks ago I wrote to you after my visit to McAllen, Texas to see how the Bright Horizons family could provide support in the face of the heartbreaking crisis unfolding at our southern border. Since then we raised \$25,000 through the generosity of our employees and parents in our centers, and mobilized a Bright Space in record time. I'm thrilled to announce that the Humanitarian Respite Center Restoring Dignity Bright Space officially opened last Thursday.

The new space provides a warm welcome for the hundreds of babies, young children, and teens who come through the facility each week. While their parents get legal advice, clothing and supplies, these children now have a place to play, read, interact with caring volunteers and to just be children.

I had some idea of what this Bright Space could be and the joy it could bring to so many children who really need it. The reality is better than anything I could have imagined. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your incredible generosity and support. This Bright Space would not be possible with it.

With gratitude,

Stephen

