

Bright Horizons at DSCC News

From the Director

Welcome to 2017! January is when Bright Horizons asks families to give us important feedback and opinions about our centers. And even though the center is transitioning to DLA we would like to hear your feedback. We use this information to assess our strengths, and identify where we have room for improvement. Bright Horizons is committed to providing the highest quality care and early education for your family and we know that every opinion counts. We would like 100% participation which means everyone needs to complete the survey. Just click on the link below!

Cindy Usner

www.brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey

Important Dates

January 2 – 31 Parent Satisfaction Survey is open

January 2 center closed for New Year's Day

January 16 center closed for MLK Day

February 20 center closed for President's Day

February 24 center closed for Transition

Reasons to Celebrate

Ferris Pleasant 2 yrs

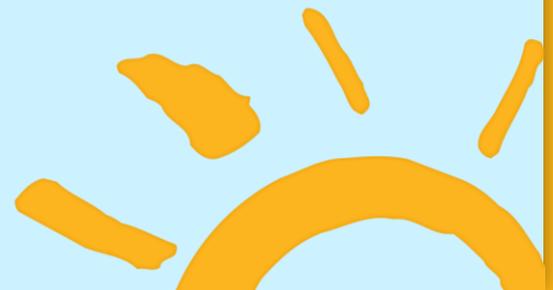
Shanita Gilchrest 16 yrs

Bright Horizons at DSCC

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CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Infants are adapted to be amazing learners. Infants start learning at birth and learn at a faster rate than they ever will again. This infant is counting and sorting ducks and fish. Infants learn mathematical concepts just as fast as they do other concepts. The mathematical concepts that infants learn include spatial relations, numerical understanding, classification, and they start to understand the concept of time.



Toddler

This toddler is balancing a beanbag on his head while playing the *Beanbag Dance*. By participating in dance and creative movement, toddlers develop coordination and balance, and build strong muscles. Toddlers do not just develop physically while dancing, they also form strong relationships with their teachers, interact with their peers, learn to follow directions and increase their language comprehension.



Preschool

Preschoolers are constantly expanding their knowledge and skills. The skills of recalling and retelling simple stories are important components of pre-reading and reading. In this photograph, a child is reading a favorite book to another child. One way that preschoolers start to pre-read and read is by hearing their favorite stories read over and over. This allows them to recall the story and then to “read” the story to their peers and family.



Kindergarten Prep

Children use a variety of materials as part of their pre-writing and writing experiences. This kindergarten prep child is using a candy cane to write her name in salt. Children learn to pre-write by dictating letters to their parents and teachers and by practicing fine motor control using lacing, cutting, drawing, manipulatives, and keyboarding. Children begin to write by practicing letter writing and by writing their names.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Outdoor Winter Play

January. For many of us, it's a dreaded month, the beginning of several weeks of cold temperatures and dark days. We're naturally inclined to stay inside when the temperature outdoors dips, yet children's need for active play doesn't change. Have you ever wondered how teachers accommodate children's needs for movement during the winter months? Below, we provide some insight into outdoor play in an early childhood setting and offer some tips for home, as well.

Cultural expectations about cold weather vary from region to region, and even around the world. In Scandinavia, for example, children and adults bundle up and go outdoors almost every day, believing that this practice builds resilience and good health. A common Scandinavian expression says, "There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing." Knowing this can broaden our view of the possibilities for outdoor play. It's also valuable to remember that while as adults, we may feel miserable in cold weather, children often find the experience joyful and invigorating.

Teachers are encouraged to take children outdoors for at least a few minutes, several times each day, although each center has its own policies and practice. According to *Caring for Our Children the National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, "toddlers (twelve months to three years) and preschoolers (three to six years) should be allowed sixty to ninety total minutes of outdoor play. These outdoor times can be curtailed somewhat during adverse weather conditions in which children may still play safely outdoors for shorter periods, but should increase the time of indoor activity, so the total amount of exercise should remain the same." (*Caring for Our Children*, 3rd edition)

Teachers understand the value of outdoor time, but are also prepared for indoor movement activities in inclement weather. In cold weather, they may take children for a brisk walk or play a game outdoors. Indoors, they may, depending on the space available, offer balls, scooters, balance beams or other movement equipment. Dancing and indoor games can provide opportunities for physical activity.

Parents can support outdoor play. Teachers sometimes worry about taking children outdoors in cold weather. Parents can offer encouragement and work with teachers to ensure children have warm, waterproof outerwear. In some classrooms, for example, parents and teachers gather a stockpile of warm clothes to be kept at the center for any child to wear. Send in outerwear your child has outgrown to add to this stockpile. At home, parents can encourage the habit of getting outdoors. Take a brisk walk, build a snowman, or watch for changes in nature.

For more outdoor winter ideas, visit [Penn State College Extension](#).

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

BRIGHT HORIZONS
FamilyMatters
WEBINAR SERIES

The Essentials of Learning Through Play
January 31, 2017 at 2:00 PM ET

What might look like play to an adult is actually learning to a child. During our upcoming parent webinar, *The Essentials of Learning Through Play*, we'll explore:

- Different types of play
- What children can learn from each type
- How these opportunities might differ depending on age
- Activities and games that will help your child continue to learn at home during play time.

Register Today: [The Essentials of Learning Through Play](#)

Parent Survey Coming Out This Month

Each year, Bright Horizons full-service centers and schools distribute a Parent Satisfaction Survey. This is your opportunity to let us know if we are continuing to meet the needs of our families.

The annual survey will be available January 2-30 2017, and will be sent out via email.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Its purpose is to gauge our families' satisfaction and opinions on a variety of topics. Your responses directly benefit your center and provide us with feedback on how we can better serve you.

Please feel free to talk with your director about any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance!



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Early Education & Preschool

