

Bright Horizons at Minnetonka News



From the Director, Melissa

Spring has sprung!

Summer is right around the corner; our teachers have been quite busy planning exciting activities and would love to see you this summer! We have started taking June reservations already! We are looking forward to partnering with your family during these summer months. Keep us in mind when your child care provider falls ill or that last minute meeting interrupts your regular plans.

Hope to see you soon!

May is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member receives is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families.

As part of this month long celebration, we invite you to visit our [Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website](#). Here, you can leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.

Thank you for helping us recognize the important work of our teachers and staff—they make Bright Horizons a great place!

Register & Reserve Back-Up Care

Your child must be fully registered before a reservation can be made. Our online system makes it simple to:

- Edit/update registrations
- Request a reservation
- Cancel a reservation
- Print daily information sheets

www.brighthorizons.com/back-up

Important Dates

May 2-6	Art from the Heart Week
May 9-13	Potty Camp is Back!
May 21 st	Baby Chicks Visit

Don't wait... reserve 30 days in advance.

Bright Horizons at Minnetonka

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Mon-Fri 730-6


Back-Up Care Advantage®
A Bright Horizons Solution at Work

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

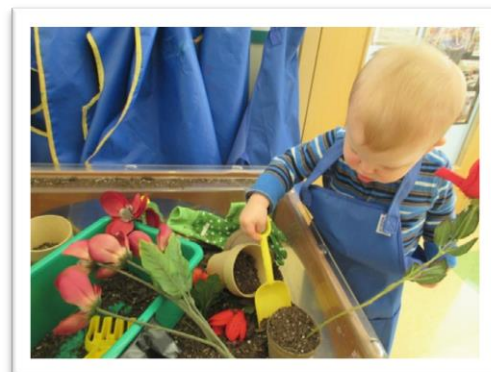
Infant

Our infant room is a *great place for babies!* For the month of May our infants will be exploring using their senses, motor skills, and developing language through the extension of our Sign Language Camp. Each day is a new discovery and we are here to foster that development and support their curiosity. From walks in the neighborhoods to oatmeal in the sensory table, infants will get many sensory experiences.



Toddler

Our *growing world of toddlers* is a place where your children can develop a sense of independence, build upon their curiosity, and show their personality traits through our everyday experiences we provide to your child. Our teachers are continuously looking into new resources that will help your child feel independent! This month we are featuring our ever famous Potty Camp! What a great opportunity for your youngster to learn from their peers!



Preschool

Our preschool room is always full of new learning opportunities to get your child *Ready for School*. This month is full of experiences that will foster your child's curiosity of science and nature. An opportunity to observe real baby chicks is just one of the hands-on learning experiences offered through our *science rocks* curriculum.



School-Age

Our school-age classroom is a place where creativity flows, friendships grow, and learning carries on, even after school is done. Our school-age room is built upon the interests of your child. Each time they visit, we make it a point to ask them what they would like to learn. Our teachers take these requests into account when planning daily curriculum and activities.



Camp is Full – What Now?!

Alternatives to Traditional Summer Camp

March is in the rear-view mirror, May is in full swing, and April was the time to start planning your kids' summer. There's just one problem: all the camps filled up in February.

What's a parent to do?

If you've missed the boat on registration for traditional camps (and don't feel bad – not everybody was thinking about bug juice while drinking egg nog), all is not lost. Camp doesn't have to be four or eight weeks in the same bunk; it can be eight single weeks in the summer of your own design. You'll just have to poke your nose into some unconventional resources.

A few places to scope out:

- **Museums:** That nearby art museum is a long way from the stuffy establishments of yore. Not only do these grand palaces welcome children, they actually court them. Pint-sized creators, tinkerers, and nature lovers can find fun stuff at fine art, science, and natural history museums. Museums are so specialized these days (Museum of Bad Art, anyone?) that a search for museum camps might turn up some surprises, like the Museum of Flight's Aerospace experience (Seattle) that welcomes aviators as young as age 4.
- **Zoos:** If you've got a nearby zoo, you've got a summer camp. Week-long programs get up close and personal with critters—older kids might even get a look at what it takes to work at a zoo and make a zoo-keeping a career. Look for zoo camps from New England to San Diego, and everywhere in between.
- **Old McDonald:** For kids who like to get dirty, this is the ideal place to dig in. Community farms are sprouting like weeds these days, and many offer farmer-led activities that go literally from the ground up. Don't know where to look? Do a search for CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in your area.
- **Audubon Societies:** This ornithological group is as much about the outdoors as birds. There are about three dozen Audubon camps spread across the country with focuses ranging from ecology to STEM science. It's a great way for kids to see a completely different side of their local habitat.
- **Specialty Camps:** These days, there's practically no specialty that can't be a camp. Computers? Check. Coding? Yup. Rock bands, LEGOs, ...Harry Potter? Check, check, check...and check. Do a search and be as specific as you want. You never know what you might find.

That's just a small sampling. Don't forget about the local Y, girl scouts/boy scouts, and even mother's helpers. An enthusiastic local teen or two can turn your backyard into its own brand of summer camp. If you're really a later starter, some sites, such as this one, post last-minute camp openings as late as June and July. Wherever you are in your search, just remember: for those willing to look, there's always something.