

Bright Horizons at Minnetonka News



April, May, and June 2015



From the Director

- Join us for our Upcoming Events
- Note the High Demand Days to reserve care when schools are closed
- Check out page 2 Classroom Highlights for photos and to find out what is happening in each of our programs
- Going to the doctor? Update your child's [Medical Forms](#), [Allergy Action Plan](#), or [Asthma Action Plan](#).
- Last minute care needs to happen...don't wait to register! Registration materials can be found on the [homepage of our website](#) or you can visit www.brighthorizons.com/backup.
- Read about how your child learns to write throughout their various developmental stages in READY for SCHOOL News on page 3

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

High Demand Days

June 5, 8, 30

July 3

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

Important Dates

May 11-15 – STEM Week

May 26-29 – Robot Camp

June 8-12 – Sensory Smashdown

Click [here](#) to view the full classroom calendars.

BRIGHT HORIZONS

FamilyMatters
RESOURCE ROOM

The Family Matters Resource Room from Bright Horizons provides valuable information for parents and caregivers on a variety of work, life, family, and educational topics.

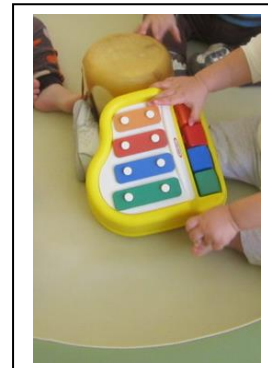
Visit www.brighthorizons.com/familymatters.

Classroom Highlights



Infants

Infants are adventurous beings who learn about the world – and themselves – through their senses. Through the curriculum within *ArtSmart*, exploration of the arts in an infant program ensures that these young children are exposed to rich and diverse experiences that capture their interest, nurture their development, and excite all their senses. The infants have been expanding their hearing and discovery by experimenting with different sounds by playing drums, rattles, and rainsticks.

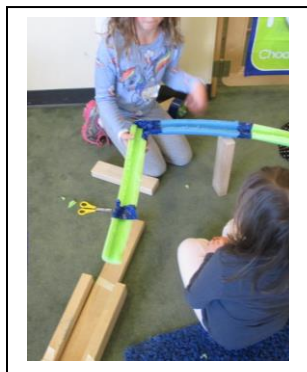


Toddlers

A toddler's natural sense of wonder and curiosity provide a perfect platform for developing values and understanding diversity, personal identity, and his larger community. Children at this age begin to develop a disposition that influences how they view the world and how they relate to others, making it the ideal stage of development for fostering positive attitudes that will last a lifetime. Through the curriculum within *Our World* the toddlers are often given opportunities to connect with historical events. With the aid of a teacher the toddlers panned for gold in the *Sensory Area* just as pioneers did in the historic Wild West.

Preschool

Science is a part of everything children do each day. Preschool children are constantly engaging in research and experimentation, testing hypotheses, exploring properties, making important discoveries, and learning how things work. Our *Science Rocks* emergent curriculum expands on preschoolers' innate interest in science by ensuring they have a myriad of meaningful scientific opportunities to explore. Most recently the preschool classroom conducted a capillary action experiment. The children learned to investigate the properties of water as well as document observations and ideas.



School-Age

School agers are enthusiastic mathematicians, fascinated by numerical concepts and mathematical thinking. By exploring the fundamental concepts of geometry, algebra, and statistics, the *Math Counts* curriculum ensures children don't simply learn numbers by routine, but instead build mathematical understanding to develop quantitative reasoning, solve problems, and use math in real and meaningful ways.

Family Matters Resource

Parenting tips, articles, and strategies for your growing family

STEM Education & Activities for Preschoolers

One of the newer educational terms that we see frequently in the news is STEM education. But what exactly is STEM education and is it appropriate for preschoolers?

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM Education, a term initiated by the National Science Foundation, refers to an educational approach which integrates more than one of these disciplines. Science, technology, engineering, and math may seem like lofty subject matter for preschool children. In reality, preschoolers spontaneously engage in STEM activities indoors and out on a regular basis. With a little guidance from us, we can enhance children's opportunities to engage in STEM learning and develop their critical thinking skills.

While building with blocks, children can build bridges and ramps, incorporating engineering and math. They can add a technology component by researching these on the computer. Outdoors, children could help solve the problem of getting water to a garden they helped to plant, drawing on their science and engineering knowledge. Incorporating the use of children's garden tools like rakes, shovels, and a wheelbarrow build on this activity to provide an even broader STEM experience.

STEM Activities for Kids

- Go on a nature walk. A nature walk can be a great outdoor STEM activity for children. Take a reusable bag and encourage your child to collect interesting objects she sees like small round stones, leaves, seed pods, or flowers. When you get home, help her sort her treasures into categories, such as color, texture, size, and shape. Skills used: math and science
- Do a cooking activity together. Cooking with children is another way to engage kids in learning at home. Look up an interesting recipe together online. Follow the recipe letting your child help measure and mix. Skills used: science, technology, and math
- Build ramps to test which cars, balls, or marbles go the fastest. Use a board, sheet of cardboard, or small table with one side elevated to make a ramp. Try rolling a variety of objects, two at a time down the ramp to see which is fastest. Record your findings on a chart. Skills used: engineering and math
- Set-up building activities with paper or plastic cups. Give a challenge such as, "How high can you make a tower of cups?" Measure each tower and record their height. Skills used: engineering and math
- Explore the grocery store. With your child, purchase some fruits and vegetables that you have never tried before. Before cutting up the fruits and vegetables, have your child predict what will be inside. Then, with careful supervision, have your child help you cut up small pieces to try. Invite your family members to a tasting party. Make a graph that shows everyone's favorites. Skills used: science and math

The possibilities for STEM education are endless. Children love to experiment, combine new substances, build, knock down, collect, sort, and have fun while learning. You were probably having your child do STEM activities at home and didn't know it. Look for additional opportunities to build STEM activities in your daily routine.

Bright Horizons News

Join Bright Horizons in Celebrating Earth Day on April 22!

Mark your calendars – April 22nd is Earth Day!



We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. We have many suggestions for green projects on our [Bright Horizons Going Green board](#) on Pinterest. Small changes can lead to a big impact! So remember to bring your reusable bag to the store, plant a flower with your child, or bring in some supplies from home for your center to reuse for an art project.

Interested in learning more about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our eFamily news article: [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

However you choose to celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful Earth Day.

Looking for part-time or full-time early education?



Visit a full-service center near you during our April Open Houses!

This April, Bright Horizons' community centers will be hosting an Open House Week for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you or a friend are interested full-time or part-time availability in our programs, visit www.brighthorizons.com/open-house to find a Bright Horizons center near you.

COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month



Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month is coming!

Each year, we take the month of May to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families. Please mark your calendars!