

# Bright Horizons Los Angeles Hope Street

Summer 2015



## From the Director

What a busy time it was for us this spring! We welcomed back many of our seasoned families and in addition, we welcomed many new families to our center. Old or new we always look forward to seeing the growth of the children in our care and building new relationships.

The children were engaged in many activities, projects, and field trips this past spring. It was an exciting time for all of us.

We look forward to seeing our families once again for the summer. Many activities have been planned.

To find out more about what we have in store this summer, visit our center web site for classroom specific activities.

Hope to see you this summer!

Alice Ontiveros - Director



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](http://www.brighthorizons.com/familymatters).

## 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](http://www.brighthorizons.com/back-up)

## High Demand Days

We have already begun confirming summer reservations. Make yours today to guarantee your desired day of care.

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

## Important Dates

### Upcoming X-treme Summer Field Trips

**July 1** – Walt Disney Concert Hall

**July 3** – Center Closed: 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**July 17** – Natural History Museum

**July 8 & 22** – Farmer's Market

**July 30** – Architecture Walk

**August 11** – IMAX Science Center

**August 28** – Grand Park Games

**September 7** – Center Closed: Labor Day

Click here [www.brighthorizons.com/losangeles](http://www.brighthorizons.com/losangeles) to view the full classroom calendar.

# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

The Infant classroom has been busy exploring and discovering their new world and environment. What may seem like a simple task of pulling up on the roller beads is a developmental milestone for a little one. With this activity they are strengthening their cognitive skills, strengthening their large motor skills and developing the confidence to explore new concepts and spaces.



## Toddlers

The toddlers painted several times this month. As they paint with their hands and painting materials, they explored the different sensations of the cool liquid paint and the many bright colors of their world. As the children explored with the paint and the painting utensils, they strengthened their hand-eye coordination, pincer grasp, and fine-motor control skills.



## Preschool

As always the preschool program is extremely busy. From learning new concepts with our Handwriting without Tears program to exploring the different means of transportation in Downtown Los Angeles. In this picture the group had the opportunity to participate in hands on activity while they role played with their peers using the trains and train tracks.



## School-Age

The School Age children have been busy exploring the culture and activities Los Angeles has to offer. The group had a busy start to their summer break taking fieldtrips to the Pershing Square Farmers Market, California Science Center, Natural History Museum, Disney Concert Hall and they visited the Aquarium of the Pacific.



# Family Matters Resource

## Parenting tips, articles, and strategies for your growing family

### Nurturing Creativity & Imagination for Child Development

Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Imagination is the door to possibilities. It is where creativity, ingenuity, and thinking outside the box begin for child development. Imaginative and pretend play is how children learn about the world. During imaginative play, children manipulate materials, express themselves verbally and non-verbally, plan (intentionally or unintentionally), act, interact, react, and try different roles.

Imagination fosters cognitive and social development. Everyone wants to raise children who reach their highest intellectual and social/emotional potential. In early childhood education, critical thinking skills and creative problem-solving abilities are goals for children's development. Imagining, trying new ways of doing things, and experimenting help develop critical thinking in children and foster creative problem solving. Furthermore, imagination builds social-emotional development by allowing children to contemplate different resolutions, thus boosting children's confidence which can be used in interaction with others. Imagination and creativity are also skills which our children will need when they join the workforce of the future.

#### *Tips to Nurture & Encourage Children's Imagination*

Below are tips and suggestions for nurturing your child's imagination:

- Spend time outdoors. The benefits of nature for child development are endless. Because nature is ever changing, it provides countless opportunities for discovery, creativity, and problem solving.
- Invent scenarios. When your child invents a scenario, he tries on lots of different roles and organizes his thoughts, while developing social and verbal skills. If your child is into superheroes, think of the power your child might want as her own superpower feeling. Consider having your child create a new superhero!
- Verbal activities. From rhymes to riddles, silly sounds to phonics, games such as "I Spy" or making up lyrics to common tunes, verbal interactive activities can inspire and nurture imaginative minds. Simultaneously, these activities build vocabulary and help your child learn phonics.
- Encourage art activities. Art is creative expression that nurtures imagination, not a lesson in following directions. Through painting, sculpture, collage, clay, drawing or any other medium, art is a way for children to work through emotions, make decisions and express their ideas.
- Share literacy activities. Make reading time memorable and discuss other possible scenarios or endings for the story by using your child's imagination. Make up stories with your child, at times with him as the main character; other times propose moral dilemmas.
- Remember to allow for down time. Unstructured, unscheduled time allows children opportunities to imagine and create.

Early childhood is the peak time to nurture children's imaginations. So if your child comes home and says, "...and then we drank purple milk that came from a purple cow," or something similar, offer encouragement for their creativity and imagination.

# Bright Horizons News



## Parents Magazine Spotlights Bright Horizons Expert

Bright Horizons was referenced in an article from the July 2014 edition of *Parents Magazine*. In the article, Potty Pressure, Linda Whitehead, Ph.D., vice president of education and development, offers thoughtful tips and advice about how to get your little one on track when it comes to potty prep. Linda advises that although the path to potty training varies from child to child, a little support from parents, teachers –and even from the other students—can go a long way.

# Parents

Read the full article at <http://www.brighthorizons.com/pottypressure>.

A separate *Parents Magazine* article features feedback from Dr. Linda Whitehead, where she discusses the benefits of family-style dining. A large part of the Bright Horizons curriculum, family-style dining not only helps children develop healthy eating habits, but also enables children and teachers to enjoy a meal together in a calm, respectful atmosphere. According to Linda, family-style dining also boosts self-confidence, teaches children mathematical concepts and builds fine motor skills.

Read the full article at <http://www.brighthorizons.com/mealstyles>.

## SAVE THE DATE: July installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!

**Family Matters**  
A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

**Seize the summer: Fitness for Busy Families**

*Presented in collaboration with PHA*

Wednesday, July 23, 3:00 pm EST

Keep checking [www.brighthorizons.com/webinar](http://www.brighthorizons.com/webinar) for the latest information as it becomes available!