

Bright Horizons at Los Angeles Hope Street News

From the Director

Summer is coming!

Believe it or not, it's time to think about summer. We have a fun and exciting camp designed to meet both children's interests and parent's expectations.

Our **Summer Adventures** camps for preschoolers and school-agers both have focus areas, activities and special events to engage children but with the flexibility our parents need.

Our camp programs are exciting, convenient, health and safety focused and led by our experienced teachers. Campers will experience fun, adventure, fitness and technology.

Stay tuned for more information to come!

High Demand Days

- April 10-21 – Spring Breaks
- May 26 – Memorial Day
- June – Summer Break Begins

Important Dates

April 11 – School Age Field Trip: Grand Central Market

April 14 – School Age Field Trip: Farmers Market

April 24-28 - Week of the Young Child

May – Infant and Toddler Music Maker Fridays

May 9, 17, 25 Preschool Program Library Field trip (10:30-11:00 a.m.)

June – Summer Adventures Camp Begins

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.brighthouse.com/back-up

Bright Horizons at Los Angeles Hope Street

550 S. Hope Street Suite T-235
Los Angeles, CA, 90071

213-623-0072 | hopestreet@brighthouse.com



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant and Toddlers

The infant and toddler rooms were busy exploring with paint. Infants may not know how to manipulate a paint brush but they are able to use their hands to push paint around. With a result of painting with their hands, infants are able to develop their cognitive and motor skills.



Preschool

The preschool children have been learning new concepts with our Everyday Math program. They used different tools and manipulatives to sort, count, sequence and to create patterns to enhance their learning.



School Age

The School Age children had fun exploring the culture and activities Los Angeles has to offer during Winter Break. The group visited the Local Farmers Market and had the opportunity to sample different foods and had lunch at the market.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Language Development in the Early Years

The first three years of life are marked by tremendous growth. A child's early language development, which includes not just speech, but nonverbal communication such as eye contact and gestures, is an almost miraculous accomplishment. Although each child is unique, language acquisition generally unfolds in a predictable sequence, as outlined below.

Average Language Milestones

According to the Mayo Clinic, most babies will smile when a parent appears, make cooing sounds, and respond to a voice by the end of **3 months** of age. At **6 months**, most infants make gurgling and babbling sounds, make eye contact in response to sounds, and respond to noises, such as music or toys.

By **12 months**, babies often try to imitate speech sounds and may say a few words, such as "dada," "mama," or "ball." One-year-olds can understand and respond to simple instructions and look in the direction of sounds. Between **12 and 18 months**, children begin to recognize the names for familiar people, animals, and objects. They may follow simple gestures or say between eight and 10 words. By the end of **24 months**, toddlers often say simple phrases, such as, "More milk." They can respond to simple requests and might say as many as 50 words.

Tips for Home

Every child acquires language at different rates, but the richer a child's "language environment" is, the more rapidly he or she will likely build language skills. Below are a few simple tips to create such an environment at home:

Respond to your child's questions. When your child points to an object, say the word while pointing at it too, e.g., "Squirrel, that's a squirrel." Be sure to ask open-ended questions to prompt communication, e.g., "Where do you think the squirrel is going?"

Use gestures or signs that your child can repeat. For example, tap your lips when you give your child a snack. He can use this gesture to let you know he's hungry. Gestures and sign language not only reduces a nonverbal child's frustration, but it can actually increase language acquisition. Talk with your young child about your daily life. "Let's get a snack and then we'll go for a walk."

Increase the length of your child's sentences. For example, your child points at the dog and says, "Dog out." You smile and nod, saying, "You're right. The dog wants to go outside."

Read, read, and read some more. One of the best ways to help children understand the patterns of language is through reading together. Read lovely picture books and lyrical poetry and rhymes.

Check with your pediatrician if your child seems to be acquiring language slowly, but try not to worry too much. As long as your child is attempting to communicate with you, whether through words, gestures, or eye contact, she is probably developing at the speed that's just right for her. Many children can understand much of what you say (receptive language) long before they can verbally respond.