

Bright Horizons at Minnetonka News

From the Director

- Medical Forms need annual updating until your child begins school. One of the best things you can do to avoid a headache at the last minute is to keep these updated! Visit our website for all Medical Forms.
- Summer Break is quickly approaching. As you sort through all of your options, remember back-up care is here for you! We have some very fun camp themes this summer and would love to see you here. Check out our website for details.

www.brighthorizons.com/minnetonka

Please watch your e-mail for the survey sent to families after they visit us. We would be honored to receive your feedback.

The highest compliment we can receive is your recommendation of this benefit to a coworker.

We love partnering with all of our families to provide your children with back-up care and cannot thank you enough for being a part of the Bright Horizons at Minnetonka family.

***Looking forward to
seeing you soon!***

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

April 3rd-7th, 10th, 14th, 17th

May 29th – **CENTER CLOSED**

June 9th-30th

Important Dates

April 24th28th: NAEYC's Annual Week of the Young Child

May 15th – 19th: Potty Learning Camp

June 12th: Summer Camps begin!

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

Bright Horizons at Minnetonka

111 Cheshire Lane, Suite 900, Minnetonka, MN 55305

952-473-1467 | minnetonka@brighthorizons.com

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Infants are adventurous beings who learn about the world – and themselves – through their senses. 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.



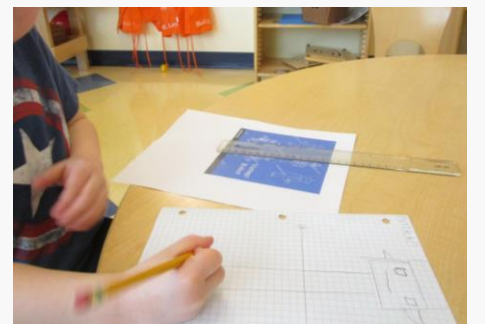
Toddler

Toddlers display scientific behavior throughout their days, from stomping in puddles, to investigating a sandbox, to intently watching a butterfly in flight. Our curriculum nurtures and builds on these natural instincts, offering toddlers meaningful learning experiences that continually foster and develop their scientific thinking and skills.



Preschool

Preschoolers delight in the numerous ways they can use and enjoy language, from composing a group story, to creating traffic signs in the block area, to reading simple stories that make language come alive. Literacy and language experiences in our preschool program collectively contribute to the development of a child's emerging speaking, reading, and writing skills by continually nurturing and challenging each child's language development.



School Age

Our School Age program facilitates experiences and opportunities for pre-kindergarten children, helping them advance skills in core academic areas such as literacy, math, and science, as well as in other essential areas such as art, social and emotional well-being, and health and wellness.



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.