



KID'S TRIBUNE

February 2014

**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

Notable Dates:

February 14

**Valentine's Day Party
3pm**

March 17

**St. Patrick's Day Party
3pm**

March 28 - March 31

**School Closed
Easter Holiday**

March 22 - April 4

**NC Pre-K Closed
NC Pre-K Spring Break**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,
In case you missed it, Winter is alive and well! January ended with a reminder to us all that cold temperatures and snow can shut down our area in a heart-beat! As you know, unlike Wake County Public Schools, we did not close down for four days during that week. Instead, we did everything we could to remain open as many days as possible. Our first concern was, and always is, with our families, not with the school system. If we believe conditions are too hazardous for our parents to travel, we will close. On the other hand, if we've surveyed the streets and believe that our area is fine, we will open. During the next inclement weather event – and there likely will be another before the end of this season - be sure to check our Facebook page or local TV stations for our status (depending on the station, we are listed as either Bright Beginnings-Cary or Bright Beginnings-Apex).

SEED Program

Two months ago, our school was one of a handful of preschools in Wake County selected to participate in the SEED (Social & Emotional Early Development) program. This program assists teachers in developing and sustaining policies and procedures that support healthy social and emotional development of preschool children. Our school is receiving approximately 100

hours of onsite classroom consultation, staff mentoring, mini-workshops, and problem-solving specific to the needs of individual children. In other words, our teachers are benefiting from intensive training that will only improve their interactions with all of their students. Given the variety of challenges today's children face, the extra education can only help us prepare our children for the big world beyond our walls.

Staff Update

Last month, we mentioned that a number of teachers would switch classrooms in 2014. The majority of the changes have occurred; however, we will, on occasion, need to add additional teachers as our enrollment increases. In our Preschool 2 classroom (three year olds), we moved Ms. Loren from the Toddler room to assist with the additional students. As a result, we moved Ms. Juliet back to the Toddler room full-time, and added an additional teacher, Ms. Ala, to assist with the KinderPrep 1 classroom. Ms. Ala most recently served as a nanny for a local family, but previously worked for another childcare facility in the area. She comes highly recommended and we're thrilled to have her on board. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Ala to Bright Beginnings!

Apply Today

Registration for 2014-2015 NC Pre-K students is now open! Interested participants are welcome to apply online at www.wakesmart.org or attend one of the upcoming Application Events held at different locations in February at various locations. This year, Bright Beginnings will be hosting one of the events on February 25th from 10am to 2pm. For those who do not know, NC Pre-K is a program of the N.C. Division of Child Development and Early Education designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four year olds. Eligibility is based on age (must be 4 on or before Aug. 31), income, whether a parent is an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, or if the child fits one of four risk factors (as listed in the NC Pre-K Program Requirements). Although Bright Beginnings currently has three NC Pre-K classrooms, we have no input in student selection. Wake County SmartStart determines which students are eligible and announces student selections in August. Please inform any people you think may qualify!

Classroom/Themes: Infant / “Friends & Family”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Who's in the family?	Interacts with peers	Social Emotional	Tiaja	Sheri
Names, Names	Demonstrates positive approach to learning	Cognitive		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler / “Pushing & Pulling”, “Favorite Toys”, “Community Helpers”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Play “Dress up” as Community Helpers	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	None	None
Push & Pull Toys	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Washing Hands	Regulates own emotions and behaviors	Social Emotional		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / “Shapes”, “Valentine’s Day”, “Our Bodies & Teeth”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Counting hearts	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Ms. Diane	Jasmine
Teeth brushing and toothcare	Regulates own emotions and behaviors	Social Emotional		
Shapes Matching	Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes	Mathematics		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / “Balls”, “Community Helpers”, “Valentine’s Day”, “Patriots”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Playdough construction	Demonstrate fine motor coordination	Physical	Catalina	Sahana Nicholas Ivan
Tooth syllables	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		
“Throw Hard, Throw Far”	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ “Clothes”, “Community Helpers”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Clothing Collage	Exploring Visual Arts (different materials)	Arts	None	None
Community Helpers Safety Rules	Demonstrates positive approaches to learning	Cognitive		
Folding Clothes	Demonstrates Fine Motor Skills	Dramatic Play		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / “Clothes”, “Community Helpers”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Button Match	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	Viny	None
Fabric collage	Explores visual arts	Arts		
ABC Matching envelope game	Demonstrates knowledge of alphabet	Literacy		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / “Clothes Study”, “Community Helpers”, “American Patriots”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sort and classify different clothes	Uses classification skills	Mathematics	Sherlyn	None
Tally features of our clothes	Uses classification skills	Mathematics		
Label Valentine Cards and deliver	Demonstrates emergent writing skills	Literacy		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 4 / “Clothes Study”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Going on a clothes hunt	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Anya	None
Button letters	Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet	Literacy		
Let's Sew	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		

Feature Article

Our focus this month is on art. As you'll learn in the following article, art offers so much more than what meets the eye.

Art is an important part of our curriculum. Every day, children find a variety of art materials available on our shelves. Drawing, painting, pasting, molding, and constructing are not only enjoyable but also provide important opportunities for learning. Children express their ideas and feelings, improve their coordination, learn to recognize colors and textures, and develop creativity and pride in their accomplishments by exploring and using art materials.

When children are engaged in art activities, we talk with them about what they are doing and ask questions that encourage them to think about their ideas and express feelings.

We are just as interested in the creative process as we are in what children make. We say things that will encourage children to be creative and confident, such as

“Tell me about your picture” (Instead of “Is that a house you drew?”)

“It looks like the play dough is sticking to your fingers. What could we do to make it less sticky?”

What You Can Do at Home

Art is a very easy way to bring your child’s school life into your home. Children love to share their art products with the most important people in their lives. Take time to talk with your child. Here are some things you might say and ask:

“Tell me about your picture”

“How did you decide which colors to use?”

“What do you like best about it?”

“Should we hang it up in a special place so we can enjoy your work?”

You can help your child appreciate art right in your home. When you look at books together, talk about the illustrations with your child. Discuss the art in your home.

Art is something your child can do at home in almost any room. You might designate a drawer in the kitchen or living room as an art drawer, or use a bookshelf or sturdy cardboard box. Include crayons; markers; paper; a pair of child-sized, blunt-edged scissors; glue; and a separate box for collage materials. Your child is much more creative and artist than any coloring book allows!



Phone: 919-367-0009

Fax: 919 - 367 - 0906

Email: loveandlearning@brightbeginningsofcary.com

123 Bright Beginning Way
Cary, NC 27519
