



KID'S TRIBUNE

Jan 2014

Bright Beginnings Child Development Center

Notable Dates:

January 2

**Annual Registration
Due**

January 13

**Kindergarten Registra-
tion Begins**

January 20

**School Closed
Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Holiday**

January 21- 24

**Parent/Teacher
Conferences**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,
Happy New Year! We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Holiday break and are looking forward to another wonderful year! We are expecting great things in 2014!

We are thrilled to continue to play a role in your child's development. Nothing is more gratifying than helping young children get a jumpstart in life, and we are so thankful you chose Bright Beginnings.

While we cannot guarantee you that all will go perfect this year, we can guarantee you that we will work hard to provide a quality education for your child. We can also guarantee you that your child or children will grow up faster than you can imagine! So, whether your child is in his/her last year here at Bright Beginnings or just getting started in the infant classroom, make sure you enjoy every minute, because 2014 will fly by before you know it!

Parent/Teacher Conferences
Do you have questions about how your child is enjoying school? Are you curious about your child's progress in reading? Do you ever wonder how your child is developing socially? To get answers to these questions and more, we invite you to attend your child's Parent Teacher Conference. The conferences will be held during the week of

January 20th. To schedule a conference, signup lists are posted in the hallway outside your child's classroom.

Teacher of the Year

Every year, our teachers vote one of their own to be the Bright Beginnings Teacher of the Year. That teacher is someone the staff believes is exemplary in their work ethic, teaching skills and passion for children. The 2013 winner is our KinderPrep 2 Assistant Teacher, Ms. Doris! Please join us in congratulating Ms. Doris for a job well done!

Staff Changes

As referenced in last month's newsletter, changes have been made to some of our classroom teachers. We are confident that these changes will have a positive impact on our students and our school, as a whole. The following changes were effective as of January 2, 2014. Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Mona switched classrooms. Ms. Elizabeth is now the KinderPrep 1 classroom teacher and Ms. Mona is now the Preschool 2 (3 year old) classroom teacher. In our Toddler classroom (1 year olds), we have added on a new teacher – Ms. Lorren. Ms. Lorren has an undergraduate degree from N.C.C.U. and a Master's degree from Capella University. She comes to Bright Beginnings with a wealth of teach-

ing experience in the Durham area. You will see Ms. Lorren predominately in the Toddler classroom, but at times she may assist in other classrooms, as well. In addition, Ms. Juliet, our longtime Toddler classroom teacher, will be splitting her time between the Toddler classroom and the KinderPrep 1 classroom. We believe strongly that these changes, and a few others, that will occur later, will only make our program stronger in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we go through this transition.

Kindergarten Registration

For those of you with a child in one of our KinderPrep classrooms, Kindergarten registration with Wake County Public Schools began on Monday, January 13th. To be eligible for Kindergarten, students must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2014. To register your child, you need go to the Wake County Public Schools Student Assignment website (www.wcpss.net/preview) to determine your child's base school. More details about documents required may be found at www.wcpss.net/parents/kindergarten.

Classroom/Themes: Infant / “Big & Small Things”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Read books about big & small	Listens to and understands increasingly complex language	Language	None	Tiaja
Show big & small toys	Following directions	Language		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler / “Farm Animals”, “Winter Wonderland”, “Sea Animals”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Counting	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	None	None
Washing hands	Regulates own emotions and behaviors	Social Emotional		
Matching	Uses classification skills	Cognitive		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / “Winter”, “Pets”, “Farm Animals”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sorting pet and farm animal toys	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	Ivan	Ava Ivan
The Pet Sounds & Touch book	Comprehends and responds to books and other texts	Literacy		
Counting toy dog bones	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / “Trees”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Geoboards	Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes	Mathematics	None	None
Find the letter sound	Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet	Language		
Come play with me	Explores drama through action and language	The Arts		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ “Winter Weather”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Study how water freezes and melts	Uses scientific inquiry skills	Science	None	Martin
Make a pine cone 3-D skier	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	The Arts		
Discuss Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Shows basic understanding of people and how they live	Social Studies		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Snow & Winter", "Clothing"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Estimating "snowballs"	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Miley Logan Maddox Zachery	None
Melting ice	Uses scientific inquiry skills	Science		
Painting with "snow paint"	Explores the visual arts	The Arts		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / "Winter", "Clothing"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sort & graph different types of clothing	Uses classification skills	Mathematics	Shyanne Mohammed Kaiyah	Shyanne
Observation and discussion: Water to ice	Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills	Language		
Make patterns using buttons and fabric	Demonstrates knowledge of patterns	Mathematics		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 4 / "Buildings"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Show me five using building supplies	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Savon	Jakaia
Can we build it together?	Establishes and sustains positive relationships	Social Emotional		
Poem: "A building my size"	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		

Feature Article

In the following article, we pick back up on our series explaining the different centers within our classrooms. In the past few months, we have explored our blocks, toys & games and dramatic centers. This month, we explore the role songs and music play within our classrooms.

We do a lot of singing and creative movement in our program. Singing and moving to music give children a chance to hear and appreciate different kinds of music, express themselves through movement, and practice new skills. The children love our daily time for singing together, and it helps them learn to cooperate in a group. Here are some of the things we do to encourage a love for music and movement:

- We listen to many different kinds of music.
- We play instruments to make our own music.

- We give the children colored scarves and paper streamers to use as they move to music.
- We chant during daily routines such as cleaning up.
- Sometimes we take a tape recorder outside and play jazz or folk music. The children dance and act out songs.

What You Can Do at Home

You don't have to play an instrument or sing on key to enjoy music with your child. Taking a few minutes to sit together and listen to music can provide a welcome break for both of you. The music you share doesn't have to be strictly "children's music". It can be reggae, country, jazz, classical, rap, or any other music you like. Here are some ideas about enjoying music and movement with your child:

- Children love a song or chant about what they are doing at the moment, especially when their names are incorporated. While pushing your child on a swing, you might chant, "Swing high, swing low, this is the way that [your child's name] goes."
- Songs and fingerplays help keep children occupied at challenging times, for instance, during long care trips, while waiting in line, or while grocery shopping.
- Songs can ease your child into tasks like picking up toys, getting ready to go outside, undressing for a bath, and so on. You might try making up a chant to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush." sing, "Water is filling up the tub, up the tub, up the tub . . ." or "Pick up a toy and put it on the shelf, on the shelf . . ."

Simple musical instruments can be made at home easily. You (or your child) may have already discovered that cooking pots and lids make wonderful instruments.

Sharing music with your child is a wonderful way to build a warm , loving relationship. It's a gift that will last forever.



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