



KID'S TRIBUNE

June 2014

Bright Beginnings Child Development Center

Notable Dates:

June 13
Father's Day Breakfast
7am—9am

June 16 - Aug. 22
School-Age Summer
Camp

July 4
Independence Day
School Closed

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

Officially, the first day of Summer is June 21st, but around here at Bright Beginnings, summer started off with a bang following graduation on June 6th! That's the day our enrollment drops significantly, as two classrooms of KinderPrep students (36 children) move on to prepare for Kindergarten starting either in July or August. While we have mixed feelings about so many wonderful children leaving us all at once, we are thrilled to know that we still have quite a few remaining amazing students who continue to make us smile every day! Summertime may be a little quieter around Bright Beginnings, but thankfully, the fun times never end!

Graduation

As mentioned, 36 students in two classrooms left Bright Beginnings on June 5th, but for those of you who attended the ceremony, you know that we had far more than 36 students graduate! In total, 59 students from all four KinderPrep classrooms graduated on that Thursday evening – quite likely our largest number of graduates to date! This class of graduates is a phenomenal bunch! Some of the students spoke no English when they started with us less than a year ago, but are speaking fluently today! Some others in the class have been with us since they were in our Infant classroom. While quite a few are

already reading and writing on a Kindergarten level or higher! We'd like to take full credit for all of our students' accomplishments, but our students are blessed with wonderful parents and families who are committed to their children's success. Keep up the great work parents! We wish the best for all of our graduates and we hope all will visit us often in the future!

Trike-A-Thon Results

Do we have some fantastic trike, bike and scooter racers or what?! The Trike-A-Thon is always a highlight for us because we get to see the smiles on our students' faces as they show off their little vehicles! Whether the mode of transportation is a simple three-wheeler, an elaborate bicycle with training wheels, or one of our trikes, all of the children participate and get a kick out of cheering for their classmates. In fact, most of the students probably enjoy rooting each other on as much as they enjoy racing around the track themselves!

This year's top winners were both fantastic in their own right. Gabriel took home the prize for most laps completed in a 2 minute period with 15 laps, while Kaeden "lapped" the competition in donations! Congratulations to both boys, and congratulations to all of the participants for

doing an outstanding job! Thanks to the children, and our parents, you can expect to see new books in all of the classrooms in the not too distant future! Way to go!

School-Age Programs

We do not often mention our Before/ Afterschool program, but with the closure of the Salem Elementary Before/ Afterschool program, we thought a reminder about our program would be appropriate. If you have a school-ager in need of a quality Before or After-school care, please keep us in mind. We open at 7am for dropoff and we transport children to Salem, Apex, Baucom and Turner Creek. In the afternoon, we pick students up from those schools and return them to the Discover Arts building for homework, snack, games and outside play. We remain open til 6pm for pickup. To register, please stop by the front office.

Our other school-age program – Summer Camp at Discover Arts Academy - runs from June 16th to August 22nd. To register, go to www.discoverartsacademy.wix.com/summercamp.

Classroom/Themes: Infant / “Friends and Family”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Talk about friends and family	Listens and understands English	Language	Caleb	Alyssa
Finger play	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Musical		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler / “Summer”, “Fun at the Park”, “Father’s Day”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Talk about favorite sports	Remembers and connects experiences	Cognitive	Jailey	None
Reading stories about “Fun at the Park”	Comprehends and responds to language	Language		
Role playing, throwing and kicking	Demonstrates gross motor manipulative skills	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / “Colors”, “Fathers”, “Shapes”, “Summer!”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Sorting shapes & colors	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	None	Ayden
Talk about our special Dads	Uses language to express thoughts and needs	Language		
Make pictures using shapes (house, truck, etc)	Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes	Mathematics		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / “Dinosaurs”, “Father’s Day”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Walk beside me	Demonstrate phonological awareness	Cognitive/Literacy	Serena Sean	None
Dino eggs	Use number concepts and operations	Mathematics		
Summer expressions	Explore the visual arts	The Arts		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ “Father’s Day”, “Beach Fun”, “Boating”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Make an ocean scene	Explores the visual arts	The Arts	David	Kayva
Create Father’s Day cards	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		
Have you been on a boat? Graph.	Uses language to express thoughts and needs	Language		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Recycle, Reuse, Reduce", "Mother's Day"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Shell Sort	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	None	Lucy
Picnics	Explores Drama through actions and language	The Arts		
Summer Finger Play	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		

Feature Article

There is no such thing as a bad child. Yes, some children may be more unruly than others at times, but children typically do not act inappropriately for no reason at all. Oftentimes, children behave poorly because they are hungry, sleepy or desire attention. Other times, they may act improperly because they simply have not been taught otherwise. In the following article entitled, "Better behavior through loving discipline", practical tips are provided to help parents help their children.

As your child grows up, it's natural for him to challenge you. Sometimes it seems easier to just let him have his way. But all youngsters need limits, and they need parents to guide them. Discipline works best with a balance of love, respect, clearly defined rules, and understand. Here are some secrets of effective discipline.

Make the rules clear

Your child will behave better when he knows what to expect. Talk about family rules, explaining the consequences clearly. For example, for a rule such as "Take care of belongings," you might tell your youngster that if he leaves his bike out, he doesn't get to ride it the next day. As he learns to read, write down the rules and put them on the refrigerator as a reminder. Tip: Children are more likely to remember the rules if there are a few broad ones, rather than many specific ones.

Be consistent and firm

You can expect your youngster to "test" the rules from time to time. When he does, try to stand your ground and apply the set consequences. Being firm and consistent lets him know that you mean what you say.

Give positive feedback

Focus more on what our child does right than on what he does wrong. This will encourage him to try even harder to behave. When you see behavior you want repeated, let him know. Example: "I like how you cleaned up your room"

Stretch your child's attention

Youngsters often like to zoom from one activity to the next. But as your child gets older, a longer attention span will help her learn in school. You can increase her ability to focus with these ideas.

Build up gradually. As a rule of thumb, your child should be able to focus for the number of minutes matching her age plus one minute. Start there (have a 4-year old work on putting away toys for 5 minutes), and increase a minute at a time as she seems ready.

Look and listen. Turn everyday activities into tasks that require concentration. In the car, you might ask her to look for words on signs that start with the first letter in her name. Or have her listen for a particular word or phrase in a song on the radio and clap each time she hears it.

Make it a game. Work together to make up a series of movements, adding a new one on each turn. For instance, you could begin by touching your toes. Then, your youngster has to touch her toes and add another motion, like spinning around. She'll need to pay close attention to remember the sequence of movements.

Waiting games

Waiting is part of our everyday lives. The next time you hear “How much longer?” try one of these ideas to occupy your child.

1. Take the change out of your pocket, and let your youngster sort it. Tell him the names of the coins, and talk about how they're alike and different. “The quarters and dimes are both silver. But the quarters are big, and the dimes are small.”
2. Work on counting forward and backward. For an extra challenge, have your child try counting from a number other than 1. For instance, if you say, “7 . . . ,” he would continue, “8, 9, 10.”
3. Do an alphabet search. Look around and find the letter A on a sign or poster. Take turns finding the letters in order until you reach Z.

How people feel

If your child knows how to talk about his emotions, he'll be able to control them better. He'll also find it easier to understand how others feel. Help him recognize and share his feelings with these suggestions:

- Together, make a list of emotions (surprised, excited, mad, disappointed). Then, look through magazines and photo albums, and talk about how people in the pictures might be feeling. Ask your youngster to explain how he picked each emotion. Examples: “The hockey player is excited because he won a trophy.” She is upset because she spilled chocolate milk on the carpet.”
- Let your child hear you use specific words to describe family members' feelings. You might say, “I feel grumpy because I haven't eaten,” or “I know you're getting frustrated trying to teach the puppy tricks.”



Phone: 919-367-0009

Fax: 919 - 367 - 0906

Email: loveandlearning@brightbeginningsofcary.com

123 Bright Beginning Way
Cary, NC 27519
