



KID'S TRIBUNE

September 2013

**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

Notable Dates:

September 2
School Closed
Labor Day

September 13
School Closed
Teacher Workday

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

September is here! September is here! Why are we so happy? It is because we have reached that time of the year when we are joined by a bunch of new students! Nearly 40 new students have become a part of the Bright Beginnings family recently and we are thrilled to get to know them and their families!

Safety First

There is nothing more important to us than our students' safety. Everything at Bright Beginnings, from the furnishings in the classrooms to the training of our teachers, is centered around providing the safest environment possible for your child.

With that in mind, you may have recently noticed the "No Phone Zone" signs in our hallways. The purpose behind those signs is not to make your life more difficult; rather, it is to ensure that all adults in our school are not distracted by their phones during dropoff and pickup periods. Parents who are attentive and aware when they enter school are better

able to assist and/or direct their children. They are also able to speak to their child's teacher, if necessary, and keep their child from running off unattended.

One place children clearly should not run is in our parking lot. During dropoff and pickup times, please do not allow your child to walk or run in the parking lot. While in the parking lot, your child should be holding your hand or an adult's hand at all times. We have had close calls in the past, but we do not want to ever have another.

Improved Communication

As we grow closer to capacity, we are challenged to ensure all parents are informed about happenings around our school. Our teachers do a great job of keeping you in the loop when you visit their classrooms; we are looking to improve our communication from a school-wider perspective as well. If your email address has changed recently, please let us know.

On occasion, we will be passing along information to you via email and via Facebook. If you have not yet "Liked Us" on Facebook, please go to www.facebook.com/brightbeginningsofcary. We don't want you to miss out!

Creative Curriculum

Most of our parents are aware that we utilize the Creative Curriculum program in our classrooms. It may not be immediately obvious to some, but there is a purpose behind every center and every item in our classrooms. In this month's newsletter, as well as future newsletters, we are including descriptions of different features of our classrooms. Today's feature article on page 3 focuses on the block center.

Classroom: Infant/“Friends”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Hello Friends	Establish and sustain positive relationships	Social Emotional	None	Ashton Caleb
Finger Play	Demonstrates fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler/ “I, Me, Mine”, “My Face”, “Hands & Feet”, “Mine, Mine, Mine”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Matching similar objects	Uses classification skills	Cognitive	None	Zion Martin
Tearing paper	Demonstrates fine motor strength	Physical		
Following directions related to position	Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes	Mathematics		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / “Back to School”, “All About Me”, “My Body”, “5 Senses”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Using our bodies in various ways to travel	Demonstrates traveling skills	Physical	Ty	Calista
Head, shoulders, knees & toes	Listens to and understands increasingly complex language	Language		
All About Me Collage	Demonstrates knowledge about self	Social Studies		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / “Beginning of the Year”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Self portraits	Demonstrates knowledge about self	Social Studies	None	Serena
Counting friends	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics		
Read “The Kissing Name”	Comprehends and responds to books and other texts	Literacy		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ “Beginning of the Year”				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Clap a friend’s name	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy	None	Jackson Ximena Thawban
Making My Name	Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet	Literacy		
Move to the Beat	Explores musical concepts and expressions	Music		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Beginning of the Year"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
"The Name Game"	Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet	Literacy	Teagan	ALL!!!
"The Long & Short of It"	Compares and measures	Mathematics		
"Jump the River"	Demonstrates balancing skills	Physical		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / "Back to School"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Name Games	Establishes and sustains positive relationships	Social-Emotional	Jason Nasya	ALL!!!
Expanding our vocabulary	Uses language to express thoughts and needs	Language		
How many letters are in your name?	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics		

Feature Article

The hardwood unit blocks you see in our classrooms are among our most valuable learning materials. They come in proportional sizes and various shapes. When children build with blocks, they begin to understand math concepts. For example, they learn about volume when they find the number of blocks that fill a certain space. They compare the heights of their buildings and learn about geometric shapes (triangles, squares, and rectangles). When they lift, shove, stack, and move blocks, they explore weight and size. Each time they use blocks, children make decisions about how to build structures and solve construction problems.

Children often use blocks to represent the world around them, perhaps a road, a house, or a zoo. As they work together, they learn to cooperate and begin to understand friendship. To promote language development and expand children's play, encourage them to talk about what they are doing. Here are examples of what you might say and ask:

"I see that you made a tall apartment building. How do people get to their floors?"

"Where do people park their cars when they come to the shopping center?"

"Would you like to make a sign for your building?"

These questions and comments make children more aware of what they are doing and encourage them to try new ideas.

What You Can Do at Home

You can encourage your child to learn through block play by taking an interest in what he or she does at our program. Please spend time in our Block area to see your child building with and caring for blocks. When you take a walk in your neighborhood, point out roads and interesting buildings. You may want to purchase table blocks, colored wooden cube blocks, or cardboard brick blocks to have at home. You can also make a set out of milk cartons, which come in different sizes. Store them in shoe boxes or plastic tubs and put a picture and word label on the container so your child knows where the materials belong.

Identify a place where your child can build and play with blocks safely. Props such as clothespins, small plastic animals, and cars and trucks will extend your child's play and inspire new ideas. The settings your child creates can also be used for pretend play.



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