

## Hello, Bright & Early families!

We are pleased to share with you some of the wonderful things that have been happening in our Centers. Our teachers recently participated in a professional development day where we strengthened our commitment to providing the best care for your children.

Here's how each of the topics covered align with our core values:



### We Educate

Our teachers participated in:

- CPR and First Aid training
- Medication and EpiPen training
- Literacy in Early Learning training



### We Nurture

Our teachers discussed ways to improve:

- Parent communication and how to build a successful home and school partnership
- Trouble-free transitions that teach



### We are Mindful

Our teachers focused on:

- Purposeful lesson planning, focused on planning for goals not themes
- Reviewing B&E Company Culture, Core Values, and NAEYC Code of Ethics
- Managing stress in the classroom and how to help kids go from chaotic to calm



### We are Cheerful

Our teachers discussed ways to enrich kids' everyday experiences:

- Yoga in the Classroom for staff & children
- Art in Early Learning

# People Spotlights

## Anniversaries

Our teachers and staff are the best of the best and we are proud to recognize their dedication to their jobs. These amazing teachers have been caring for children in the Bright & Early family for many years! Please join us in celebrating their commitment to our Centers and our vision to educate mindful, cheerful, and engaged children during their earliest years.



### Middletown

#### **5+ years**

Angelica Colon

#### **10+ years**

Wendy Biernat

Jennifer Picard

Julie Watson

### North Branford

#### **5+ years**

Maria Gagliardi

Candance Horner

Janet Johnson

Donna Kratzert

Nadia Bowen

Cristina Finucane

Heather Greenwood

Whitney Hood

Heather Vastakis

### Niantic

#### **5+ years**

Lindsey Hewitt

Bethany Gaetano

#### **10+ years**

Kelly Goldstine

Kathy Buckley

Debbie Lento

Bernice Rosario-Rivera

### Old Saybrook

#### **10+ years**

Kara Smith

## Congratulations are in order...

**Miss Dorothy** graduated from Post University with a degree in Child Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Education alongside her daughter, **Miss Ashlyn**, who has a degree in Psychology, with a minor in Art.

**Miss Tammi** graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education.

**Rochelle Getfield** graduated with her bachelor's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology with a minor in Early Childhood Education

**Kiara Fair** graduated with her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education.

**Kimberly Irving** graduated with her bachelor's in Human Services.

**Kelsey Lovallo** accepted a promotion as our Assistant Director. She earned this by exemplifying our Core Values!

**Our Middletown Center** received The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation. Accredited Centers have met the NAEYC's 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. Middletown has demonstrated that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well-trained, and work with a curriculum that is age-appropriate. This process takes several years and we are incredibly proud of them for all their hard work & dedication!



# Important Dates & What We've Been Up To

## April: Week of the Young Child

During the Week of the Young Child, families created paper flowers with their children to brighten up the front lobby. We love seeing the beautiful art at the start of each day! We also hosted Book Fairs—kids had the opportunity to make decisions, get excited about new books, and build their home library.

## May: Developmental Assessments and Parent/Teacher Conferences

In May, we had teachers complete developmental assessments for all age groups. Families signed up for individual conferences to discuss their child's progress.

## May: Spring Fling

We had so much fun with this year's Spring Fling! Depending on which

Center, your child may have enjoyed face painting, bounce houses, spring-themed crafts, and special visitors like bubble man, a magician, and a balloon artist.

## May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week was a blast! We loved getting to highlight and treat our teachers each day. From Ice cream sandwiches and Cinco de Mayo themed lunches to gift baskets and notes of appreciation—our team felt the love! Thank you to all of the families who helped make the week so special for our incredible teachers.

## May 6: Mother's Day Treats

We hope every Mom had a beautiful Mother's Day! We love celebrating the amazing women in our children's lives. Many thanks to each Center for all of

the wonderful activities and treats put together.

## June: Preschool Graduation

Congratulations to our Preschool Graduates! Our students have enjoyed a busier, bustling Preschool classroom filled with more choices, more friends, and more independence to best prepare them for elementary school. Our teachers have set the stage for a positive and confident transition to kindergarten for our students, who will be equipped with the right early life skills for the years ahead.

## June 19: Father's Day Fun

Be on the lookout for some super crafty Father's Day projects that each Center has planned this month. We hope every Dad has a great day full of family, fun and maybe even a moment to relax!





# Classroom Developments

## Math Games

We recently had the opportunity for some of our preschool teachers to test out a Wesleyan University program that utilizes math games to determine how they help numerical development & play-based learning for kids. Our teachers then took what they learned and applied it in their curriculum!

We were very excited to have students from Wesleyan come to our classroom so they could evaluate our students' progress.



## Summer Fun at Bright & Early

Summer is coming and we're spending lots of time outside! From outdoor games and sports to sprinklers and water tables for cooling down, we're ready for summer fun.

Don't forget to pack the sunscreen! For babies and children, doctors recommend using sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. If your baby is under 6 months, however, the FDA suggests not using sunscreen at all. Instead, pack loose long-sleeve clothing and a wide brim hat for outside time.

