

Hello, Bright & Early Families!

We're growing & celebrating

We are thrilled to announce that First Steps of Southbury is now a part of the Bright & Early family! Pictured with President, April Lukasik, are Maria Santos Argenta and Palmira Metcalf, the two sisters who founded First Steps. Being a company that values (and works with) family, we are honored to be chosen to continue their 40 year child care legacy in the Southbury area. We are excited to have added an amazing team of staff, students, and teachers to our ever-growing family. Welcome aboard, Bright & Early Southbury! Here's the team:



Please also join us in welcoming Christine DelMedico, the Southbury Center Director.

Our Middlebury center is NOW OPEN! Our first day was 11/15, and we could not be more excited. Our little ones had so much fun exploring their new classrooms, experimenting with new toys, meeting their new teachers, and making new friends!

Congratulations to Bailey Cruz, who has moved from our Middletown center to accept the position as the Middlebury Center Director.

We are also excited to welcome Karen Yorker as the new Director of our West Hartford center. Karen brings over 20 years of experience to the B&E family.

Pop Up Perks

Throughout the year, we have “Pop Up Perks” where we treat employees to festive & themed goodies. Each perk is different but just as exciting! The best part is our teachers don’t know when it’s coming, so it’s a great surprise when they get to work that day.

We recently “popped” by to show our love for our teachers—there’s no one “butter”! We also gave them what they are calling “hands down” the best tech gloves around. They’re perfect to keep their hands warm but still be functional. Our teachers are a valued part of our company and we love to show our appreciation in any way we can!



Congratulations are in order!

Miss Kelly welcomed baby Liberty born 10/7
Miss Lexi welcomed baby Rhaea born 10/27
Miss Maria celebrated 10 years in North Branford
Miss Janet celebrated 10 years in North Branford
Miss Anna who just got married
Miss Alivia welcomed baby Pheonix born 9/11
Miss Becca welcomed baby boy Joel on 11/10
Miss Kelci welcomed baby Kynleigh on 11/21
Miss Bailey was promoted to Center Director in Middlebury
Miss Margaret was promoted to Assistant Director in Middlebury
Miss Jenn was promoted to Assistant Director in Middletown



Core Values in Action

We Educate



We recently had a professional development day for our centers where our teachers worked on DOTS training, reviewed our Core Values, created their Learning Experience Plans, and completed their CCEI training. Our North Branford center also participated in a great activity, “designing your dream classroom.” Continuing education is something we believe in for students & staff alike!

Mr. Bryandt from our New Milford center has been working with a new student, DJ, on how to put together a puzzle. This is a great way to showcase hand-eye coordination and critical thinking, all while having fun! That’s one of our main goals—to make learning fun!

We Nurture



Our brand new Middlebury center is ready to begin nurturing a wonderful relationship with the students and families of Middlebury. We have 15 beautiful classrooms ready to help showcase our values!

We are Mindful



During our recent professional development day, our Middletown center worked on team-building activities, informative training on social & emotional development, and classroom planning time. Here, we put just as much of an emphasis on emotional learning as educational learning.

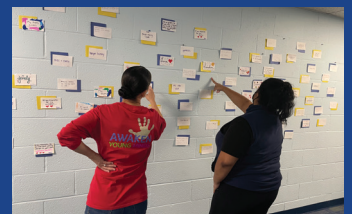
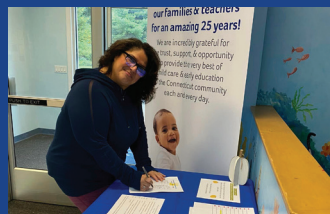
Miss Tiffany from our North Branford center loves her new young toddler classroom. She is so mindful, cheerful, and nurturing in everything she does.

We are Cheerful



We’re bringing our cheer to the town of Southbury with our newest center!

Ms. Mercedes from our New Milford center and her beautiful little girl Nevaeh Rae showed their love and support by sporting our new B&E onesie!



Important Dates & What We've Been Up To

Recent Center Events

We celebrated museum week during October 3-7 where our kiddos created replicas of famous pieces of art. In North Branford, we then had a silent auction for our little Picasso's pieces to support breast cancer awareness. In Middletown, the kids created art from recycled items. Our Old Saybrook center made art with nature. In West Hartford, the hallways were transformed into a giant rainbow of artwork!



Throughout the month of October, we had firefighters visit our centers to teach about fire safety as well as



show the kids around the equipment. Their smiling faces say it all!

The week of October 24th, we had an "Imagination Celebration" where each day had a different theme. In Middletown, they also had a virtual book fair where the center earned free books.

Our Middletown center hosted a "Spooktacular Family Night". It was a night filled with festive activities that ended with a family movie.



How could we close out October without a mention of Halloween? We had trick-or-treat at our Niantic location, trunk-or-treat in Old Saybrook, as well as the first annual trunk-or-treat in New

Milford. Our Middlebury center had a ROARIN' good time with their dino-themed trunk.



We celebrated friendship in November leading up to Thanksgiving with special activities, including the wall of gratitude where West Hartford families were able to express their gratitude for B&E staff. Our Niantic center had a friendship circle which was a picnic-style snack where they talked about the importance of being kind to everyone. They also had a friendship parade to show off colorful and creative artwork. Our New Milford center had a food drive to benefit the local food pantry—last year B&E NM donated over 100 pounds of food!

Upcoming...

We have Family Traditions week coming up in December where we celebrate everyone and their beliefs.

We have our holiday staff party coming up too! We're looking forward to gathering and reminiscing about a great 2022!

Once the New Year arrives, we're back at it! We have a professional development day planned in January, as well as parent/teacher conferences. Stay tuned for more information about the conference as it gets closer.

As always, thank you to all our staff, friends, and families for making Bright & Early CT's premiere child care destination.