



## October 2015 Newsletter



Dear Bright Beginnings NYC Parents,



September kicked off the fall season, as well as our new academic year! As we welcome new friends into our classroom, we also usher in our theme for the month of October - Community And Our Neighborhood.

Our All About Me theme got the children to focus on their identities and their families. Our younger students learned to recognize the first letter of their names, identify different body parts, and shared their favorite food and color. Together, we also shared family pictures and discussed how many people we live with, and who they are. Our older students worked on spelling and writing their entire names, painted self-portraits and learned to identify the body parts that make up their facial features. Together, they also worked on reinforcing their knowledge of shapes by making houses for them and their families to live in. We ended our All About Me theme with a study of our **5 senses**. Each day of the week we used a different sense to explore our classroom - the younger children explored “touch” by using paint mixed with sand to finger paint, while our older group used different materials to make an acorn. We tested our sense of hearing with different musical instruments, and explored our sense of smell by making scented playdough. We also went on a color hunt to emphasize our sense of sight, and, of course, tickled our taste buds by tasting different foods. The children could be heard from near and far singing the five senses song that we taught them – and as we’re quite sure they will be sharing it with you soon, we’ve copied it below for your convenience:



## I Use My Five Senses

sung to "The Farmer in the Dell" (author unknown)



I use my eyes to see, I use my eyes to see,  
And when I want to see a\_\_\_\_, I use my eyes to see.

I use my nose to smell, I use my nose to smell,  
And when I want to smell a\_\_\_\_, I use my nose to smell.

I use my tongue to taste, I use my tongue to taste,  
And when I want to taste\_\_\_\_, I use my tongue to taste.

I use my ears to hear, I use my ears to hear,  
And when I want to hear a\_\_\_\_, I use my ears to hear.

I use my hands to touch, I use my hands to touch,  
And when I want to touch a\_\_\_\_, I use my hands to touch.



Throughout October (weather permitting), we'll be exploring how the changing seasons are changing our neighborhood, as well, from the leaves on the trees, to the weather, to the clothes we wear and so on. As we take our daily walks, we will focus on specific spots in our neighborhood of special interest to our children, such as the fire house and the 55 Fulton market. We will also begin our exploration of the alphabet and will be working on a new letter each week.

We also want to draw your attention to a few dates to be aware of in October:

- We will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences on **October 20<sup>th</sup>** from 1:15 to 2:30. A sign-up sheet will be available outside the classroom starting Monday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Each student's parents/guardians can sign up for a 15 minute time slot to discuss their child's progress, as well as any questions/concerns with our teachers.
- **October 26<sup>th</sup>** is our Staff Development Day, during which classes are suspended in order to allow our teachers to attend any workshops necessary to maintain/renew their qualifications.
- **October 30<sup>th</sup>** is our Halloween Dress-Up Parade day. Each child may come to school in a costume, and we will parade around the neighborhood and

have a Halloween party in the classroom. More details will be available as the date gets closer.



Last but not least, as our new younger students begin potty training, we wanted to remind you that this is a process that requires consistency in school *and* in the home. Specifically, we need the children to understand that underwear is for “inside time” and diapers/pull-ups are for “outside time,” both in school and at home. Please try to follow this practice outside of the classroom, so as to avoid confusion such as may impact the children’s need to ask to use the bathroom, or even want to try. Therefore, if your child is potty training, please make sure that he/she arrives in school in underwear (or ready to put them on), and reinforce this habit at home. We want to make the process as easy as possibly both for your and for your child – and that can only happen if we all work together! Please also remember that if your child is potty training, he/she will need lots of spare underwear, as well as clothes that are easy to change (no belts, suspenders, or other accessories that are hard to remove, please).

We are thrilled with our students’ progress and can’t wait to explore the wonders of fall throughout the month of October! As always please feel free to take a look around the classroom to see what your child is working on, or visit the vocabulary board right outside to see what new words your child is learning - and, if you have any questions or suggestions do not hesitate to bring it to our attention.

Sincerely,

The Bright Beginnings NYC Staff

