

The background of the slide is a vibrant green with a fine, white, diagonal line pattern. In the center, a large, soft-edged rainbow arches across the frame. Surrounding the rainbow are several abstract, brush-stroke-like shapes in various shades of green, some pointing upwards and others downwards, creating a sense of movement and growth.

The Impact of Early Learning on Community Development

Overview

- Our Centers and Schools
 - Focusing on infant and toddler programs
- The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children
- A curriculum of empathy, caring, compassion, and social responsibility



Mission Statement

The Bright Horizons Family Solutions mission is to provide innovative programs that help children, families, and employers work together to be their very best. We are committed to providing the highest quality child care, early education, and work/life solutions in the world.

WE STRIVE TO:

Nurture each child's unique qualities and potential

Support families through strong partnerships

Collaborate with employers to build family friendly workplaces

Create a work environment that encourages professionalism, growth, and diversity

Grow a financially strong organization

We aspire to do this so successfully that we make a difference in the lives of children and families and in the communities where we live and work.



Two Early Learning Systems



- 627 centers in NA
- More than 1000 client partners
- 70% of eligible centers are NAEYC-accredited
- Many centers serve urban populations
- Emergent curriculum based on NAEYC's DAP



- Bright Horizons Foundation for Children
- Non-profit agency
- Opened 300+ Bright Spaces
- Focusing on "Connectors" between Bright Horizons and agency

Infant and Toddler Programs

- Our Curriculum:
 - Jointly plan goals with families
 - Is observation-based
 - Focuses on the whole child
 - Maximizes Prime Times



Infant Brain Research



Infants require:

- Responsive care
- Responsive interactions (serve and return)

700 new neural connections formed every second in a baby's brain

Toddler Program

- *Powerful Interactions:*
 - Dombro, Jablon, and Stetson
- Be Present
- Connect
- Extend Learning



Resources for Families



- eFamily News:
 - 120,000 subscribers
 - Popular topics include:
 - Nurturing Critical Thinking Skills
 - Importance of Pretend Play
 - At Home with a Newborn
 - Understanding a Toddler
 - Learning from Mistakes

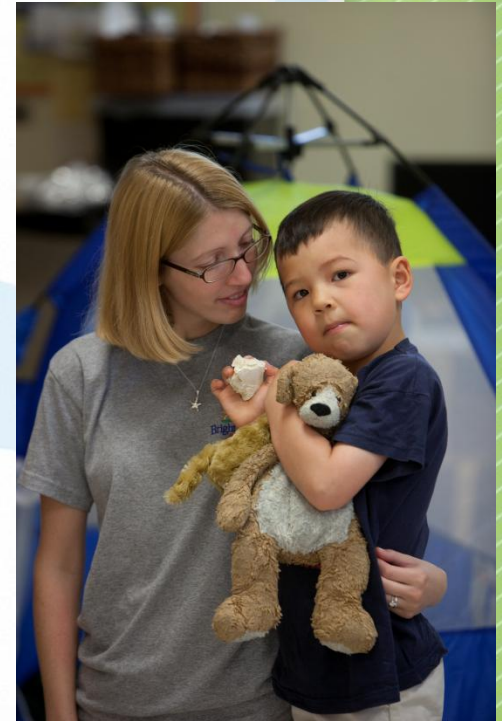
Statistics

- 1 in 45 children was homeless
- 40% were 5 years or younger
- Since 1967, poverty rate for young families went from 14.1% to 37.3%
- Poverty for children linked to fewer years of schooling, working fewer hours, lower wages, and poor health



Bright Horizons Foundation

- Serve children and families experiencing the trauma of poverty through the Bright Space program
- Impact of poverty may include homelessness, and experiencing or witnessing violence
- Mitigating factors – relationship building with children and parents



Toxic Stress

- Stress can be:
 - Positive
 - Tolerable
 - Toxic
- High levels of toxic stress can affect the brain
- The parent may be a victim of trauma as well



Trauma-informed Teaching and Caregiving

- Listen to children and parents
- Identify and be sensitive to triggers
- Provide a safe and secure place
- Share power
- Take a holistic approach
- Focus on success

From Ileen Schwartz-Henderson



Community Engagement

- After 9/11, *Toward a Better World* curriculum added to our programs
- Help children develop empathy, caring, compassion and social responsibility embedded into the curriculum
- Teach perspective-taking
- Use children's literature
- Provide Brightening Lives activities



Summary

- Parenting is challenging for all but added resources needed for toxic stress
- Employer-supported early care and education is one option
- Commitment to high quality ECE programs through accreditation
- Build caring and social responsibility in children from a young age

