

# Our Approach to Halloween

Dear families,

At **Bright Horizons**<sup>®</sup>, we enjoy coming together for celebrations. Through these events, we build relationships, grow our communities, recognize milestones, and create shared memories. And, we know these types of experiences are sorely missed right now.

At this time of year, many begin thinking of fall holidays like Halloween. We approach all celebrations in a way that considers young children's learning opportunities and our diversity and inclusion principles. Further, this year we are also guided by our enhanced protocols related to events and gatherings. We consider the following:

- ▶ Current CDC recommendations, and our own enhanced protocols, limit some shared experiences, prohibit group activities outside of a classroom (parades, trick-or-treat, trunk-or-treat), and don't allow any costumes with face coverings.
- ▶ Celebrations should be meaningful and inclusive. Not all families or cultures celebrate Halloween the same way.
- ▶ Young children often enjoy dressing up, but Halloween costumes can be problematic in early education programs e.g., costumes are scary or stereotypical.
- ▶ Halloween themes do not provide unique learning opportunities.

This does not mean it's not an appropriate celebration for families. It simply means some Halloween activities are not appropriate for our educational purposes, philosophy, and protocols. We will still celebrate the season in ways that are exciting and meaningful for all.

At our center we plan to celebrate the season by:

- Hosting a week long Harvest celebration that will allow the children to explore pumpkins, apples, leaves, and fall colors. The week will also have several clothing theme days for the children and staff to partake in.
- Creating a family and staff fall recipe book.

We believe this is a wonderful way to honor this time of year while remaining true to our philosophies. Stay tuned for more information on this upcoming celebration!

Should you have any questions about our Bright Horizons approach to celebrating holidays, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jason Vance

Interim Executive Director

Jeannette Cathy Children's Center

