

Bright Beginnings Newsletter

Spring 2023



Dear Friend of BBI,

Spring at BBI is always an exciting time! It seems like our children and families are growing at even greater rates and the programming at BBI continues to change and improve to meet their needs.

Our teachers have finished their second round of COR, which measures how children are learning throughout the year. We are seeing our largest areas of growth in socio-emotional development and language and literacy, which is directly connected to our focus on supporting our young learners and our work with Language ENVironment Analysis (LENA) programming.



We are thrilled to announce that BBI is one of ten Head Start organizations in the nation that has been selected to receive the National Head Start Association's GroMoreGood Garden Grant. BBI also recently planted 43 trees on our campus in partnership with Casey Trees and the support of dedicated volunteers. With this grant and our partnership with Casey Trees, our children and families will be exposed to the beauty of nature and the opportunity to learn to grow their own produce.

As the spring continues, we will also share our 2022 Annual Report, continue to build our Strategic Plan implementation, and prepare for all of our end of the school year activities, like our parent empowerment celebration and transition ceremony. Thank you for your continued support of BBI's children, parents, and staff. All these exciting updates would not be possible without you!

Sincerely,



Erin Fisher
Chief Executive Officer, Bright Beginnings, Inc.

2-GEN IN ACTION

Our programming supports both children and their families. This creates a long-lasting impact and helps the family unit as a whole move from crisis to self-sufficiency.

HEALTHY DIETS = HEALTHY CHILDREN

March is National Nutrition Month, and BBI hosted multiple events and workshops for both children and the adults in their lives to discuss the importance of healthy eating.

BBI's Health and Nutrition Manager, Shannon Robinson, visited each classroom and taught our children about vegetables, fruits, proteins, dairy, and grains. She organized lessons where children classified foods by type, learned about food textures and colors, and got to sample some healthy treats. Ms. Shannon is a Public Health Nutritionist and is responsible for the health and wellness programs at BBI.



DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES WORKSHOP

BBI held a Developmental Stages workshop for parents on March 21st. The workshop covered the various stages of development based on a child's age, what a child should be able to do at each stage of development, activities and practices to help a child improve and reach milestones, and signs that may cause concern and what steps should be taken to address them.

The workshop was led by Dr. Teri Lee, BBI's Multidisciplinary Coordinator. In her role, Dr. Teri is responsible for the administration of disability and specialized services available to the children and families at BBI.



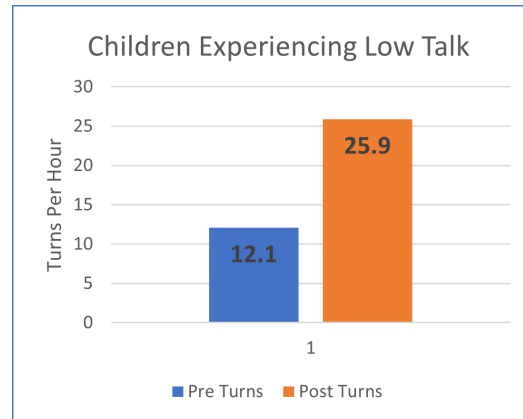
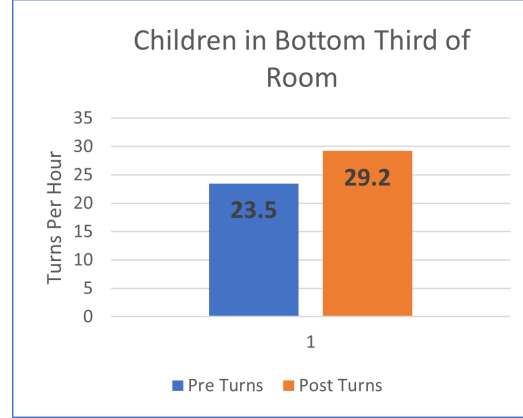
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is a celebratory time at BBI. Each of our 13 classrooms adopted an Historically Black College and University and decorated in school colors. Black pioneers were also featured throughout the month along with their contributions to our country's history, including President Barack Obama, Rosa Parks, Malcom X, and Ruby Bridges. Our first week of February was dedicated to honoring Black artists, musicians, and poets, like Amanda Gordon. Our teachers developed lessons that incorporated musical instruments and song into their curriculum. The week culminated in a school-wide parade on Friday, February 3rd where students showed off their musical talents for the teachers and staff.

DATA STORYTELLING

LENA GROW is a practice-based, data-driven professional development program for early childhood educators. LENA Grow gives educators the tools they need to improve language environments equitably and to truly connect with each and every child in their care. The program is

designed to encourage more equitable talk environments. Bright Beginnings started its LENA program in 2018 to understand and address the language acquisition disparities between low-income children and their higher-resourced peers. Bright Beginnings utilizes LENA data collection devices in 9 of its 13 classrooms to track how many words children are exposed to, analyze vocal interactions between children and their caregivers, and ensure each child receives targeted support. Data from our most recent LENA data collection looked at two segments: children in the bottom third of the room and children experiencing low talk. After a baseline recording in the fall of 2022, a recent recording shows that children in the bottom third of the room had an average increase of 5.7 turns per hour, and children experiencing less talk than the national median of 15 turns per hour had an average increase of 13.8 turns per hour.



CASEY TREES

[Casey Trees](#) approached BBI about donating dozens of cherry trees to plant on our property, and we gladly accepted! Casey Trees mission is to restore, enhance, and protect the tree canopy of Washington, DC. In support of that mission, it works with partners, like BBI, and thousands of local volunteers to plant 4000+ trees every year to achieve a 40% tree canopy over DC by 2032. On Saturday, April 1st, 40 volunteers helped to plant 43 trees on BBI's property. Casey Trees will return 1 - 2 times a year for educational workshops with our students and to conduct maintenance and pruning. Thanks to [Casey Trees](#) for helping to beautify our property and offering educational workshops for our children and families too!

BBI AT THE CAPITAL CITY GO-GOS GAME!

A special thanks to [Monumental Sports](#) and Myisha Hines-Allen (pictured back row, third from left), a professional basketball player with the Washington Mystics. They provided BBI families and staff with tickets to a Capital City Go-Gos game on Friday, March 17th. The Go-Gos are the NBA G League Team affiliated with the Washington Wizards. Providing tickets to sporting and other community events is one way BBI fosters family health and wellness and accrual of social capital.





Father-Daughter Dance on February 14th



Cooking Demo on March 22nd for National Nutrition Month



Paint and Sip Classes in January to welcome back BBI children

The last few months have been chock full of events and activities at BBI!

[Donate Now!](#)

