

## Bright Beginnings Newsletter Summer 2022



Dear Friend of BBI,

We are so excited to share with you everything that has been going on at BBI this spring season. From engaging classroom lessons, field trips, career expos, and parent celebrations, BBI has been as busy as ever. What's been even more exciting is that beyond our classrooms, our services to parents have been completely back in person too! We have missed the community that connecting in person brings and are thrilled by our parents' enthusiasm to return to in-person programming.

Throughout the spring, Family Services and our Home-Based programs celebrated our parents with extensive Mother's Day and Father's Day events. Mothers and fathers were able to take pictures with their children, connect over food, and experience some pampering. We appreciate all of the hard work our children's parents do to become the best version of themselves and we were excited to have the opportunity to celebrate them!



One example of the great work our parents are doing is serving as paid Parent Interns at Bright Beginnings. Through the collaboration of our ERSEA Specialist and Partnerships Coordinator, our parents have been out recruiting children and families for BBI programming. Parents learned transferable workforce skills that make them an asset for any full-time roles in the future. Parents also set career goals, refined their resumes, and practiced interview skills, not to mention, our phones have been ringing off the hook with interested families because of their work.

In the classroom, our teachers and children have been hard at work. Our LENA program (Language Environment Analysis System) has been in full swing and our teachers are using the data from the program to increase each child's conversational turns. We are also thrilled that we are taking field trips for the first time since the pandemic began! In May our rising kindergarteners were able to visit an elementary school and experience the big cafeteria, a huge gym, and to be the little ones on campus! We also have had children go to Port Discovery in Baltimore and all had an awesome time!

While many think that the summer months bring a pause for educators, June through August is always incredibly busy at BBI. We are planning our annual Parent Empowerment Ceremony, our Pre-K graduation, and our staff Professional Development Week for School Year 2022-2023. As a year-round school, we are celebrating the achievements of the past year and taking a quick breath before we begin again this summer.

Thank you for your continued support of BBI through this year and we look forward to an eventful summer and positive start to the new school year in August!

Sincerely,

*Erin Fisher*

Erin Fisher  
Interim Executive Director, 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.*

### CHILDRENS MOBILE HEALTH

The Children's National mobile health unit was on site on Wednesday, June 1 to conduct physicals, screenings, and provide basic health services, including vaccinations, to our children. Twenty three children were seen by Dr. Hope-Rhodes, MD, who is following up with referrals for specialized treatment for six of the children. The mobile health unit comes to BBI two times each program year. Our partnership is a valuable asset to our two-generation approach to family health and wellness.



### FINANCIAL LITERACY

Bright Beginnings' Family Services department launched a 3-part financial literacy series in April with expertise provided by [Truist Bank](#). The first session was titled, "Banking on Your Success" and was followed by sessions covering the importance of having a bank account, savings and budgets, and establishing and building up credit. The Truist representative, Ariana Flores, worked with parents one-on-one to assist with the topics covered. Thank you [Truist Bank](#) and Ms. Flores for your support of our parents and our 2-generation approach!



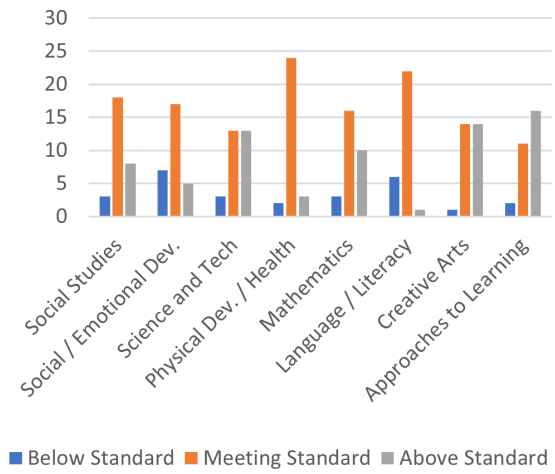
### PARENT INTERNS AT BBI

BBI's workforce development program launched a new parent internship opportunity this spring! Five parents were trained and hired to serve as community canvassers. In this paid role, the parent interns work 10 hours a week over 3 days to spread awareness about BBI programs and services in Wards 7 and 8. In preparation for the job, the interns learned about BBI programs and services, reviewed ideal routes for recruitment, and role played conversations with potential enrollees. Our canvassers are seeing great success! They sold out BBI's Open House on May 24th and have helped recruit 5 potential home-based parents. This new skill set and engagement in BBI's workforce development program has allowed these parents to set SMART goals related to jobs and careers, update their resumes and portfolios, and expand their entrepreneurial skills.



## DATA STORYTELLING

Bright Beginnings records and evaluates each child's growth and development in order to plan activities that meet their individual needs. Assessment results are compared against our school readiness goals and objectives, then used to make data-driven decisions at various levels of the program. There are eight COR Advantage content areas that inform this data: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Health, Language, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science and Technology, and Social Studies. The chart shows how many of our 29 Head Start (Pre-K) students are below, meeting, or above the standard in each content area.



## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Bright Beginnings celebrated its educators from May 2 - May 6 for **Teacher Appreciation Week!** The center was decked out in decorations to honor our cherished, and hard-working teachers. They were also treated to food and self-care items every day of the week. We also extend a CONGRATULATIONS to teachers Veronica Scott, Michelle Davis, and Barbara McFadden (pictured center) for graduating from Trinity University with their Associate's degree! We appreciate how you model for our children and families the value of being lifelong learners.



Why celebrate **Mother's Day** for just one day? BBI honored them for an entire week May 9 - 13 with a breakfast, dinner party, family portraits, and gift cards.



Doing some Shopping?  
Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select Bright Beginnings as your favorite charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to BBI!



BBI Dads also received the royal treatment and were honored by a **Father's Day** breakfast, sweet treats from Rita's Italian Ice, gift bags, and a photo op as well!

[Donate Now!](#)



