

March 2017

In this edition of the *Eco-Healthy Child Care® Spotlight Series* we recognize *Bright Horizons Family Center at Chandler*, located in Chandler, Arizona. *Bright Horizons Family Center at Chandler* has been an Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) endorsed facility since 2014 and is part of the Bright Horizons Family Solutions network which operates more than 750 child care centers worldwide.

Bright Horizons Family Center at Chandler currently serves 100 children, from the age of 6-weeks old to 5 years old. Prioritizing children's environmental health, by adopting eco-healthy practices and making changes in their purchases and policies, is important to the staff of *Bright Horizons Family Center at Chandler*. Even before the facility was EHCC endorsed, the staff worked with the children they serve to reduce, reuse and recycle. For example, they make artwork and sculptures out of recyclable materials such as: empty food boxes, used paper and milk jugs. Recently, the center had an EHCC [on-site assessment](#) and director, Danielle Gonzalez, along with her staff worked to adopt the recommended changes to improve their program. The improvements made include: replacing air fresheners (in classrooms and bathrooms) with boxes of baking soda; disposing of used batteries at a hazardous waste facility (Find one near you at www.earth911.com) and adopting an Anti-Idling policy.

As a result of making the aforementioned changes, along with others, Ms. Gonzalez noticed that upon removing fragrant candles and air fresheners from the classrooms, the children slept better during nap time. Additionally, those suffering from asthma are now not as dependent on breathing treatments. Ms. Gonzalez also expressed that because of the facility's EHCC endorsement and related practices, staff have also become more interested in adopting EHCC best practice suggestions within their own homes.

Bright Horizons Family Center at Chandler helps parents understand why they have implemented eco-healthy practices via a parent newsletter and engaging parents in informal discussion at the center. In addition, the [Air Quality Index](#), which is used to communicate how polluted the air currently is, or forecasted to become, in a specific area is posted daily in the lobby. This becomes useful in deciding when it is safe for children to be outside.

Ms. Gonzalez is most proud of replacing all drinking pitchers and cups with safer plastics made of polypropylene. Danielle hopes to make her center more eco-healthy by finding an alternative to [polyvinyl chloride \(PVC\) plastic](#) baby dolls. Toys made of PVC in a childcare, especially in Infant/Toddler rooms should be avoided because PVC can leach phthalates suspected of being [endocrine-disrupters](#) and carcinogenic.



Meal time at Bright Horizons Chandler using safer plastics!

Aside from ensuring that her center is eco-healthy, Ms. Gonzalez continually recommends other child care providers to pursue the EHCC endorsement saying, "The EHCC checklist is a great start to know where you are and where you need to go to become eco-healthy". She and her team are currently working in partnership with the City of Chandler to create a formal recycling program.

To learn more about this child care facility, visit their website [here](#). To become an EHCC endorsed provider or to be considered for the EHCC Spotlight Series visit www.cehn.org/ehcc.