



# The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children

## Brightening the lives of children and families in crisis

Bright Horizons Family Solutions® is committed to making a difference, not only in the lives of the thousands of children we care for daily in our nurseries and preschools, but also in the communities where we live and work.

Our focus is to improve the quality of life for children and families who are impacted by crisis and experiencing disadvantage. We work with local community agencies to create Bright Spaces© - rooms or gardens in refuges and shelters, temporary housing projects and refugee advice centres, police interview suites and prison visiting areas.

Every one of our Bright Spaces is very special, providing a comforting, peaceful space for children and families when they most need it. These safe, welcoming and enriching play environments also help to ensure that the children experience the vital opportunities for play, learning and discovery which will equip them for best life chances in the future.

Having a Bright Space at a refugee drop-in advice centre means that the children are happy, the parents relax and the advisors can give each client their full attention. Having a quiet, private place to do homework helps a young teen cope while living in emergency accommodation. For children fleeing domestic violence, who have left all their possessions at home, having a teddy to cuddle, or books and art materials which help them lose themselves in a world of imagination – makes a world of difference.

Since our Foundation began in 2005 we have opened over 30 Bright Spaces in the UK and Ireland, in partnership with refugee centres, domestic violence shelters, homelessness charities, the Metropolitan Police's Child Abuse Investigation Team and Royal Holloway Prison.



## Contact Us

Find out more about how you can help make a difference with Bright Horizons Foundation for Children:

**Tracy Wilkes-Green**  
Foundation Manager

Tel: 020 8342 1512  
twilkes-green@brighthorizons.com

## Follow us on Facebook

[http://www.facebook.com/  
FoundationforChildrenEurope](http://www.facebook.com/FoundationforChildrenEurope)

## Why do we do it?



women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime: in 50% of cases the children of abused women are also directly abused

*Women's Aid*



homeless children in England are living in temporary accommodation

*Shelter*



children were separated from their mothers in 2010 by imprisonment

*Action for Prisoners' families*

We believe that every child, no matter his or her circumstances, is entitled to a happy childhood, to discover the world of books, to find the artist within, to dress up, and to run and sing and laugh. Children who are uprooted, experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or other crisis situations usually don't have the chance to make friends, play or learn. They desperately need the opportunity to have a childhood.



# The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children

*These truly are Bright Spaces in a dark corner. Seeing the children in the space, you know you're making a difference. I would challenge that there probably isn't a better investment commitment that you could make.*

**Bright Space Corporate Sponsor**

*There was an air of excitement among the families at the Crisis Centre during the project as they saw the flooring changing, the walls being painted and lots of new toys and resources arriving. On the day of the opening, a little boy saw us arriving and asked if the playroom would be opened today. When we said "yes" he jumped up and down in excitement! This Bright Space will really have an impact on the centre and I treasure the fact that we have truly made a difference.*

**Bright Horizons Nursery Manager**

*Our Bright Space has been a wonderful addition to our Leicester office. "It's completely changed the way families feel when they come to us for advice. Often worried about the incredibly complicated asylum process, families can face long waits to see a caseworker. Having a space for their children to play has been lovely – and the donations of toys from Bright Horizons staff have been fantastic*

**Refugee Action**

*Bright Horizons have been exceptional in their commitment to our project, providing a cheerful and child friendly environment in our interview suite. When children visit us to be interviewed the circumstances are often extremely distressing. To bring them into such an environment where they can play and feel comfortable at such a difficult time is so important. We are truly grateful to the team who provided the ideas, the equipment and time and energy to see this through. Thank you.*

**Metropolitan Police**

*Thanks for making a place of safety for children, some of whom may never have experienced what it feels like to feel safe before because their lives are so chaotic. You've given them an opportunity to create an anchor memory they can always come back to and try and recreate, what other kids might consider normal. We're honoured to be part of the Bright Horizons family!*

**Kazuri Women's Resilience Centre, London**

*There's a lot of "bad" reported in the world and it can sometimes feel like the tide of "bad news" is rolling in... This gave me an opportunity to feel like I was part of an alternative tide...one of goodness and magic and awe!*

**Foundation Supporter**

## Supporting our local communities

Many Bright Horizons staff members are already closely involved in their communities and we support them by awarding Volunteer Grants to charities in which they actively volunteer. Additionally through our annual Make a Difference awards we recognise our employees who have made a difference in their communities and make a donation in their name to the causes of their choice.

## Working together to make a difference

It is the ongoing support of our employees, children and families, clients, suppliers, partners and Foundation supporters that makes all of our Foundation's work possible: with your help we really are able to make a real difference in the lives of children and families.

**We all have something to offer. Together we can:**

- Fund Bright Space projects
- Sponsor specific fundraising activities
- Volunteer to help with Bright Space decorating or refurbishment
- Offer space for events, or raffle prizes
- Provide labour, materials and equipment
- Collect needed items such as children's socks, wash-bags for mothers
- Find new community partners and potential Bright Spaces
- Promote the Foundation and spread the word!

