



Child Care + Education =
A Child's Bright Future



MEDIA CONTACT
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What We Do

Brightside Academy believes child care involves more than babysitting. Brightside Academy leads children to their learning potential with state-of-the-art facilities that enhance their experiences and prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

As a child's early education and child care provider, Brightside Academy provides a safe and supportive environment that promotes discover and growth to help each child achieve school readiness mainly in underserved communities in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Brightside Academy employs over 1,200 people across functions including education, technology, management and administration. Our purpose is at the center of everything we do: Provide all families access to an excellent early educational experience that prepares their children to be life-long learners in an ever changing world.

As a participant of QualityStarsNY, EarlyLearn NYC, Step up to Quality, Keystone Stars, Head Start and UPK we provide high-quality, early education to prepare the next generation for life-long success. Our curriculum is recognized both locally and nationally in each state where we are located to provide unique learning opportunities to develop children's language, literacy and social skills. Additionally, we provide before- and after-school care and summer camp experiences.

In the News

To view some of Brightside Academy's recent initiatives and see what others are saying about us visit www.brightsideacademy.com/about-us/news/ or view some of the learning experiences happening at our locations:

Videos



McKees Rocks Art Program

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5C9eKrqrZ8s



5th & Courtland Graduation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QZ_nAWEIdI

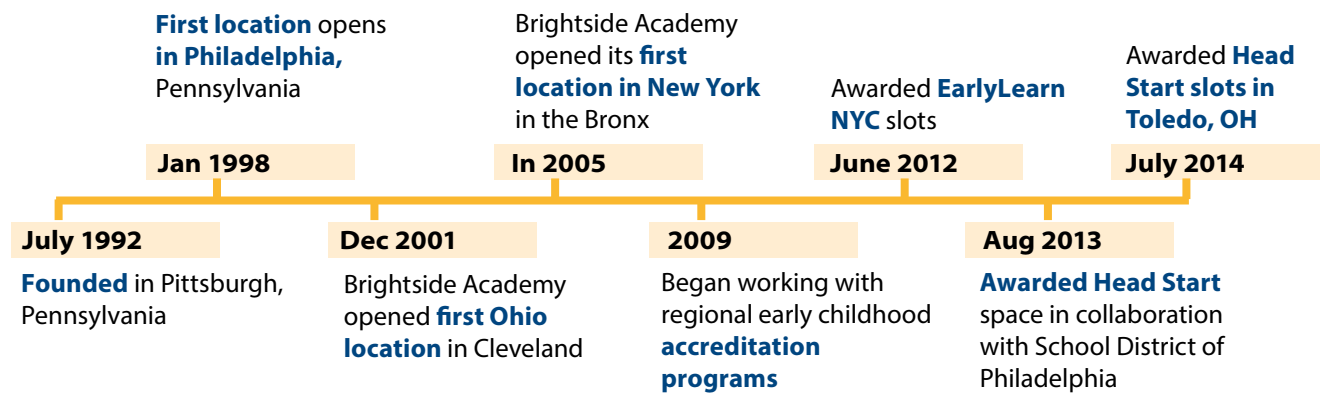
General Information

1,200
Employees

7,000
Children
served

60+
Locations

History



Regions

Our academies are located in

- **Pennsylvania:** Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
- **Ohio:** Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo
- **New York:** Bronx and Brooklyn

Bios

MARTIN HANDLER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Martin Handler joined Brightside Academy in December of 2016 as Chief Executive Officer. Martin has been actively involved in the field of early childhood education leading Head Start, EarlyLearn, and UPK programs in New York City for over a decade. Martin was also directly involved in early childhood special education leading the expansion and transformation of a New York special education provider. His inspirational leadership style, his creativity and drive have served him well in his previous ventures. Martin now brings his extensive experience and knowledge to Brightside Academy.

JACK SAFER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Jack Safer joined Brightside Academy as the Chief Operations Officer after working in the social services sector and a number of health care organizations throughout the last decade. Jack's hands-on leadership style and creative approach to problem solving has enabled him to execute highly complex programs and initiatives successfully within the health care field. He brings his community service and innovative management methods to Brightside Academy with the goal of expanding our services for children and families of all backgrounds by providing them with high quality child care and education. Jack graduated with honors from Fairleigh Dickinson University and holds a Degree in Business Administration.

RAY WOJTOWICZ, VICE PRESIDENT BUSINESS SERVICES

Ray joined Brightside Academy in May 2007. He holds a master's in business administration in accounting and finance from the Katz Graduate School at the University of Pittsburgh. He has held multiple positions in the Finance Department throughout the years within Brightside Academy. As vice president business services he oversees all accounting functions, grant administration and CACFP compliance.

COLETTE KLISS, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, PHILADELPHIA

Colette Kliss joined Brightside Academy in February 2000 and is now responsible for, development of state licensing compliance monitoring and program compliance. She has over 35 years' experience in compliance and accounting roles. Prior to Brightside Academy, Colette has been in leadership roles in various industries such as service, distribution and manufacturing. She was the Controller at Igate (formally known as Mastech), an international multi-service computer systems provider, where she played an important role through their IPO in 1996. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.



JENNIFER JACKSON, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, PITTSBURGH

Jennifer Jackson joined Brightside Academy in July 2011 as Academy Director of the Squirrel Hill location in Pittsburgh, PA. Since joining Brightside Academy, she has been successively promoted to leadership roles at the academy and the Pittsburgh region. Currently she is serving as Regional Director, Pittsburgh & Ohio. In this role she oversees and promotes quality programming and child care compliance for both regions. Prior to joining Brightside Academy, Jennifer worked as a center director focused on driving quality programming and opening new locations. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and Family Relations from Indiana University of PA.

AMY LABOSCO, VICE PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES

Amy joined Brightside Academy in January 2005. Initially hired as assistant controller, she has been successively promoted to roles of increasing responsibility and currently holds the position of vice president, human resources. In this role she is centered on creating a great work place for employees. Prior to joining Brightside Academy, Amy spent her career in several leadership roles in finance. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Duquesne University.

Promotions and Events

Academy Tours

We encourage families to take a tour of their nearest location. Tours are offered every Monday and Friday in the morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or the afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. During the visit families will have the opportunity to mingle with both current and future Brightside Academy families and see our teachers in action. *Media tours are available by appointment. Please call 877-868-2273 to schedule a media visit.*

Family and Community Events

Brightside Academy locations hold a variety of fun and entertaining events for enrolled families and the community throughout the year. Activities range from crafts activities and nutrition workshops to community resources fairs and preschool graduations. Visit our Facebook page to learn more about the events being held throughout the year.

Family Referral Program

Brightside Academy families can receive \$100 per new family they refer that enrolls at one of our locations. Additional promotions are available throughout the year in all regions.



Community/Volunteering

Brightside Academy believes in giving back to our communities. We are privileged to serve our designated corporate charity: The Make-a-Wish Foundation. Additionally, many of our local academies and our employees give back through various volunteer and fundraising efforts:

21st Century	Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry	North Versailles Library	Ground Works
Action for Children Metropolitan Library	Step Up	Ohio Benefit Bank	Help Me Grow
Allegheny Health Department: Skin Cancer Screenings and Awareness	The Beck Center for the Arts	Out of School Time Resource Center (University of Penn)	Jeannette Library
Asthma Early Intervention for You	The Free Library of Philadelphia	Philadundance	Lancaster Avenue Business Association and Community Development Corp.
Bird Dog Marketing	Town Watch Integrated Services	Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	Lucas County Community Relations
Carroll Park Community Council	Universal Companies	Please Touch Museum	Mercy Behavioral
Child Guidance and Family Solutions	V Odom Library Well Care of Ohio	RIF	Mt Pleasant Renovation
Columbus Parks and Recreation	Workwise Philadelphia	SMILE Mobile Dentist	NAP SACC
Cultural Trust	52nd St. Business Association	Southwest Community Development Corp.	New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.
Family Practice (outside garden) Partnerships	Akron Canton Food Bank	St. Jude Children Hospital	NYC DOH Move to Improve
Glenville Development	Allegheny Intermediate Unit Head Start Partner	Sto-Rox School District Transition Team	Ohio State University
Harbor Behavioral	Big Picture Philadelphia	The Comcast Foundation	People's Emergency Center
Hispanic Association of Contractors and Enterprises	Blast	The Partnership Community Development Corp.	PITT Mental Health Specialists
Keystone Babies	Child Care Connection	Trendsettas	Pittsburgh Public Schools Head Start Partner
Lighthouse Academy	Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	UPK	PNC Group Up Great Arts Program
Lucas County Main Library-Outreach Program	Community Health Resources	West Passyunk Neighbors	Safe Child
Millcreek Community Council	Diversified Community Services	YWCA	Soccer Shots
Murtis Taylor Human Services Systems	Frankford Avenue Commercial Corridor	Action for Children	Spanish American Committee
National Partnership for Afterschool Science	Glenville High School	Akron Public Library	Starting Point
Newbold Civic Association	Healthy Start Partnership	APS Beech Brook	Taller Puertorriqueno
Ohio Afterschool Network	Impact Services	Bilinguals Inc.	The Food Trust
Operation Safe Child	Lagrange Community Development	Brookridge Library	The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
PEP (Positive Education Programs)	Local Education and Resource Network	Child Development Council Head Start Columbus Kids	United Way
PITT Readiness	McKeesport Area School District Transition Board	Columbus Bilingual Academy	Usborne Books
Planet Aid Recycling	Minadeo Public School	Community Partnerships for Inclusion	William Penn Foundation
Pre-K Counts	Mutual Life Child Protection Program	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program	Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition
Safe-T City	Neighborhood Interfaith Movement	Frankford Community Development Corp	

Testimonials

“... Brightside Academy provided the academic training, guidance and individual attention that made it possible for my son to be prepared for school. I send my sincerest gratitude to both you and your competent staff.” - *Crystal R.*



“My daughter attends Brightside Academy and her experience there has been wonderful. The staff is great ... she feels safe and at home with them. The infant room teachers give each child the attention and care they deserve.” - *Shonte M.*

“Brightside Academy has taught my son a lot. Every time I refer the day care to people, my first words are “It’s like school.” They teach the kids so much and have helped me tremendously with potty training.” - *Haleigh S.*

“Since starting at Brightside Academy my daughter has been talking more and using the potty more. She sings more songs and knows more colors.” - *Latasha F.*

“My children’s experience at Brightside Academy has been great so far. I would recommend it to anyone. They are kind and loving ... I give them 5 stars.” - *Santerica J.*

“My son seems to be learning a lot at Brightside Academy. He loves to go every day. I think the teachers are great! They really care about the children!” - *Taimy B.*

“This is a lovely day care. They have great staff with positive attitudes. My children love the teachers and the projects.” - *Ashley F.*

“The teachers are friendly, kind and resourceful. The curriculum activities they perform with my children are very helpful in school and at home. I would recommend Brightside Academy to a friend, a family member or person seeking early education and child care for their children.” - *Shauntae C.*