• Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, May 7
   The Upper Valley Child Care Association will host a banquet in appreciation of child care providers on May 7. Parents and children are encouraged to submit testimonials for their child’s teachers in text, prose, photos, drawings or mixed media. It only needs to be from the heart. These words of appreciation and encouragement will be posted at the banquet and then forwarded to your child’s teacher. Please take a moment to complete the form attached. It’s something that teachers appreciate even more than chocolate!

• “Kids Stuff” magazine premieres!
   Congratulations to Jennifer Hopkins (William – Pandas, Sophie – Teddy Too) on the publication of the first issue of Kids Stuff magazine. Kids Stuff features articles from Upper Valley authors, directing parents to local resources and answering the questions such as, “Where to go? What to do? Whom to ask?” It is published 5x/year in April, June, September, November and February. It is free in the Upper Valley and available in many locations including DCCCC. More information at www.uvkidstuff.com

• Beautiful Music
   Thanks to Elise Plans (Ollie-Pandas, Thomas-Polars) the children and the teachers enjoyed a Piano Presentation in April. Elise took the top off the piano and showed us the strings and hammers. She played high and low, fast and slow, familiar and new. We sang along to some familiar tunes and just listen to some beautiful music. Thanks, Elise!
• **Administrative Professional’s Day, April 21**
  A hearty thanks and a tip o’ the hat to our hardworking administrative professionals who work so hard behind the scenes. Three cheers for Terry Chase, Amy Potter and Faith Goodness!

• **Tuition Due**
  June tuition is due by June 18 to clear out books for the end of the fiscal year.

• **DCCCC will be closed:**

  • **May 31,** Memorial Day
  • **July 5,** Independence Day
  • **August 30-31,** Preparation for the new school year
  • **September 6,** Labor Day

• **Moved? Changed Jobs?**
  Be sure the office has your new contact information.

• **Still doing taxes?**
  Dartmouth College’s EIN # is 02-0222111.

• **New phones**
  Thanks for your patience as we learn about our new phone system. We are teaching it a thing or two and are losing fewer calls all the time. If we accidentally drop your call, please accept our apologies and call us back.

  Phone: 646-6610. Fax: 646-3232

• **ATTACHED: Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Form**
  Please fill one out for your child’s teacher!
Spring is a time for new growth and we are seeing lots of growth in Teddy One!

We recently had three birthdays: Cosima and Tejasi turned two and Amelia had her first birthday! Harper will be turning one in May. That's a lot of cupcakes!

Music is always going in our room. Tejasi goes over to our CD player and requests music to listen and dance to. Cosima sings, "No More Monkeys Jumping On The Bed" while Lea asks for "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" over and over and over! We recently made some new music CDs for our room, but if your child has a favorite that you would like to share with us, we would love to make a copy.

Aidan is more of an outdoor guy. He loves moving the rocks around our yard!

Grace is enjoying outside time and practicing going up and down the gazebo steps.

Cooper is our escape artist. He loves to open our classroom door and play out in the kitchen or visit Teddy Too.

Amelia and Harper are both up and cruising, enjoying each other's company. Harper even has some new teeth to show while Amelia will say the word "puppy" for us, but only when she feels like it.

Annabel amazes us with her rolling over. She is one happy girl!

We are fully enjoying the warmer weather of spring and watching the robins at our bird feeder.

While going out we do sunscreen with the "Water Baby" brand unless you bring in another brand for us to use.

That is the Spring News from Teddy One. Hope you are enjoying the longer and warmer days of spring.

Fondly,
Debbie B.
Dear Teddy Too families,

Spring is finally here and with it has come many changes in the Teddy room. Our room is bursting with new walkers, new talkers, new sitters and new standers. While we are excited for the new walkers it is also scares us. We spend a lot of time cheering them on and gasping at the near misses when they start to topple over and just miss something hard or edgy. Learning to walk is a rite of passage in the Teddy room; most children who have learned to walk have also had their fair share of bumps and bruises that go along with it. To all you parents of new walkers you might want to stock up on ice packs and popsicles!

The sounds of spring in the Teddy room are not the usual birds chirping and peepers peeping, but the Teddies learning to talk. The 2-year-olds are saying many new words and repeating everything they hear so now’s the time to really watch what you say! Sometimes we struggle to understand them, but more and more the words are clearer. The Teddies are starting to name their friends and teachers and are very happy when you understand what they say. The 1-year-olds are talking too with one or two words thrown in with a lot of babbling and gibberish. We are hearing words like Mama, Dada, up, apple and ball. We are also seeing a lot of signing from the preverbal kids. The babies are vocal and making up in volume for what they lack in clarity. Before long they too will be making words come out. All of them are contributing to the sounds of spring in the Teddy room.

You wouldn’t think sitting was much of an accomplishment, but when you’re a baby who’s been lying on your back or belly all along sitting up changes everything. We have a couple of Teddies that have recently gone from horizontal to vertical and they are loving the view.

Now sitting up is a fine accomplishment in its own right, but pulling up to stand takes everything up a notch. When those Teddies have just learned this new skill they tend to practice a lot. Sometimes they practice on a shelf or your leg or in their crib which sometimes results in some screaming because they haven’t really figured out how to get back down on their own. They are getting there but until then they will use those vocal skills they have honed for just this sort of thing.

We are also enjoying spring outside as well. With all the new skills everyone has acquired over the winter we will be up to new adventures outside so continue to send in all the gear you think your child will need to go outside.

Happy Spring everyone!

Terri
It has been wonderful to be back with your children after those couple of months being out. It’s amazing to see such growth in such a short time. I immediately notice some sprouting in various ways.... yes... they are all taller!! Oh my... how they are talking!! And look how many are experimenting with the potty. Some children are moving into underwear, some are just starting to sit on the potty and some are mostly just watching. If any of you have any questions about this toilet training, please just ask us. We have lots of hints and ideas that may help the process along. Do remember that it will come in time—we promise!!

I can’t stop thinking about spring and what it brings to our group of children. Let me tell you, we have some great days ahead of us. First of all, I’ve noticed that a robin is working on a nest on our porch! I am so in hopes that she’ll lay a few eggs and settle in. We had one a few years back and it was this daycare teacher’s dream come true!! We watched the parents bring worms to the big open mouths of naked little birds. We watched feathers begin to grow. We looked at books about robins, and learned things like what color their eggs are, etc. One Monday I came in and they had all flown away over the weekend. Throughout the summer I heard occasional thoughts from the children when they spotted a robin: “I wonder if that is one out our robins?” And then, “Well, you never know... it just might be!”

I was so happy to see the children heading at our egg hunt in the field, each carrying a basket. We always have a little chat by the gate to explain what we'll be doing and discuss a few minor rules: “Remember, if you hear a teacher say, ‘COME BACK!’ please come right back!” (And guess what...they really came right back almost every time. But not to worry, I can still run faster than they can, but only IF I HAVE TO!) After the eggs had been collected and shared, I said to Eileen, "This is my favorite place to be with children at this center!" I just love being out there with them. We go check out the groundhog holes, listen to the birds, spot school buses across at the Ray School, check out deer skat, look for bird nests and other traces of animals that have been out and about. We walked down and picked pussy willows as well. And I bet we'll be flying kites soon too! I feel so fortunate to have access to the paths, woods and fields that surround this center and have every intention to share it all with your children.

We are planning to have family conferences in mid May. We'd like to chat with you about how the year has been for you and your child and where your child is developmentally. We’ll talk about fall placements, summer plans and anything else you’d like to discuss. We'll have a sign-up sheet by late April and if the times don't work for you, well set up a time that does.

I am excited to be back with this great group and we'll have a great spring and summer!

Fondly,
Susan for the panda crew
Greetings Koala Families,

Rain on the green grass
Rain on the trees
Rain on the rooftops
BUT NOT ON ME!

Spring weather, spring songs, spring activities are in full force in the Koala Room. Our featured book for the last couple of weeks has been *Planting a Rainbow*. We have made many spring-related creations. Paper sunflowers, crowns adorned with flowers, baskets and colored eggs. Check out the beautiful foot and hand flower creations hanging in the foyer. Nothing like slopping cold, wet paint in between little toes.

We learned the different parts of plants and flowers, and what they need to grow. With help from Freddie and Elena’s mom, Maria, we learned how to say different flowers in Italian. As you can imagine, most of the Koalas had no trouble making their little mouths go quite big to make those bold sounds. Thank you, Maria! The Koalas also seemed intrigued by the world globe itself. The idea is to give them exposure to many different ideas and concepts. So the globe was a hit.

What would a welcome to warm weather be without popsicles? I love that the Koalas look like the Joker from Batman with stained mouths by the time they are done. As one child said, “This is a good day—we have popsicles!”

We will be continuing with our spring theme for the next few weeks. We will plant flowers in small pots for your child to take home, and perhaps start their own little garden area. We will also take the Koalas in small groups to help plant flowers outside our window, adjacent to the walkway. This will be a great place to watch our hard work bloom. Making people faces with grass hair is always a fun project as well, especially when it comes time to trim the “hair” with scissors.

With nice weather comes the freedom to be spontaneous. I would like to take the Koalas on walks and picnics throughout the spring and summer season. When possible I would like for children’s lunches to have items in them that do not need heating up. I personally like cold pizza.

Ciao! And Happy Spring, everyone!
The Koala Team
Hello Woolly families,

It is good to hear the birds singing and to see the signs of spring all around us. Over the next several weeks we will be exploring the changes happening around us on a daily basis. We will learn about vernal pools, watch tadpoles grow and be detectives looking for changes in the seasons. Our adventures will take us off the playground and out into the woods.

Another change in the WB room is a switch in afternoon staff. Our good friend and PM helper Anne Steele has taken a job substituting for the schools in her new town. She had planned to continue with the Woollies for one day a week but her new job needed her on a daily basis for now. Anne hopes to see us again when the “big kids” get out of school. She has written us a letter which is hanging on our bulletin board just inside the door. Check it out! We miss her but we are also exited for her and wish her well at her new job.

We have been doing a lot of rhythm and dance this past month. It’s a good way to pass all those rainy days. Jen from the Panda’s arranged for a Belly Dancer to come to DCCCC. The music was lively and the dancing with jingle skits was fun!! A few of our other favorites tunes we moved to at gatherings were: Joe and the Button Factory, Shake my Sillies Out, Peppermint Twist, Freeze Dance and Singing in the Rain.

We also explored colors: primary colors and secondary colors in many different mediums. It was a good way to talk about rainbows and how they are formed. If you haven’t already asked your child about the science project Barb did with making a rainbow float in water, make sure you do!

HAPPY SPRING!

Deb, Barb and Kristin
What a lovely time we had at the Polar Art Show! It felt so amazingly elegant. Along with being such a wonderfully fun time for the kids, they were learning so much as well. In his book, *Super Teaching: Over 1000 Practical Strategies* (Corwin Press, 2009, p.3), Eric Jensen writes “…learning takes time because learning physically changes the brain.” You may have noticed several projects that have taken place over time: the mice on the ceiling, work in the Polar Pines, the Art Show, and now Molly the Owl and hatching our own chicken eggs. The Polar Art Show is a great example of how true learning happens in the Polar room. During the art show project children were able to see a plan develop over time, prepare multiple projects, observe the art of others at the Hood Museum of Art, transform their gross motor play area into a space for viewing, understand the importance of celebrating and respecting art, prepare healthy food for guests, and to take pride in their accomplishments! Wow! Can you believe that so much came from that one event? While Mr. Jensen’s work is aimed more at teachers of older children, his message is very true here in the younger years as well. The children learn much more from projects that develop over time and that have risen from their interests than they do from weekly themes that are based on the interests of teachers or that are part of a predetermined curriculum.

Now we have moved on to Molly the Owl. Rusty (a.k.a. Rosie’s Dad) sent the link to me. This was the beginning of something amazing. The children take interest in watching Molly daily. They watched Molly care so tenderly for her eggs, watched McGee bring food to Molly and watched her eat, and have seen owlets emerging from the eggs and growing and developing and changing and eating. The amount of “content” that they have acquired has amazed me. We started writing down a few things that they knew about Molly — it did not take long before we needed to add more and more pieces of paper to our wall for the list! They have learned about owls, life cycles and the circle of life. They understood when eggs did not hatch or when they observed Molly ripping up a rabbit for food. They predicted that Max would be bigger than the others because he hatched first. They noticed how Molly fed the babies and how hard it was for Molly to keep the babies under her as they grew. As the Polars kept track of the owls, they developed a deeper interest in what happens inside the eggs so we introduced an incubator and chicken eggs. The Polars have decided that the incubator is like a mommy chicken and that after the eggs hatch we will substitute a warm light for the mother. They are excited to see the drawing of the embryo each day as it most likely looks inside the eggs. It is all very exciting and is changing and strengthening their brains each and every day!

Preschool is an exciting time of learning! I’m so fortunate to be a part of it with so many children!
Spring is here at last (even if it may be snowing by the time you read this!), and it is a wonderful time to notice how much the Grizzlies have grown. Several of the parents have already lamented that last year’s puddle boots are too small.

The children amaze us daily with their curiosity, explorations, and discoveries. The fruits of their labor both here and at Kindergarten are really paying off. More and more frequently, they are realizing that they can READ words, phrases, and even whole books! It’s great to see them courageously willing to sound something out. They have also been doing much drawing, painting, and crafting, as well as building constructions from blocks, Legos, Magna Tiles, and paper towel tubes. On the playground and in the Multi, we see them increasing in strength, speed, agility, and stamina, working together to create obstacle courses and fun physical challenges. All in all there is an atmosphere of collaboration, sharing of ideas, and the good feeling that comes from being on an adventure with friends.

And speaking of sharing ideas..... We also see how much the children enjoy recognizing their own capabilities and they were excited to share with you some of the many things they know how to do in a way that would enable you to be able to do them too!

**HOW TO DO RESEARCH by Matthew Adner**
Get 2 pieces of paper and tape them together. Look up information about nature on the computer and then print out the information and pictures that you find. Put it in the folder you made with the paper. Keep it in a safe place and add more to it. Read the information often and you will learn new things.

**HOW TO MAKE A FLYING LEGO by Alexander Velichkov**
Lay 2 big flat rectangle legos next to each other. Connect them by putting 2 small flat squares on top of them at the edge. With 3 rectangles snap them down on top of the flat pieces to look like bug jaws. In the middle of the open jaws stack 1 small square with a triangle on top.

**HOW TO STENCIL by Eleanor Press**
You trace the whole thing and then you take it off. You can use a marker, a pencil, or a crayon.

**HOW TO HAVE AN EGG HUNT by Ellie Havrda**
You hide the eggs and then you find them. I had an Easter Egg hunt at my Gramma’s house!

**HOW TO SWIM by Emma Duff-Pierce**
You move your arms and legs. You could go underwater or on top of water. You could jump off the diving board or you could dive. You could go in a whirlpool and swim around.
HOW TO LOSE A TOOTH by Evan Yang
You can yank it out or you can use a string and put the string on your wiggly tooth and you can pull it.

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A DOG by Iris Levey
You feed it. You take it on walks, and you play games with it like ball and keep away. You let it go outside some times. You brush it. You tell it, “You’re a good dog!”

HOW TO GIVE BIG PUSHES ON THE SWINGS by Kate Nordberg
Stand behind the swing and hold onto the chains with both hands. Walk backwards as far as you can go and let go.

HOW TO MAKE A WATER CHUTE by Logan Taylor
First you have to have a little hill and some pipes. Then you have to put the pipes together in a certain way and it has to be downhill. And you have to have a hole away from the chute and you have to put the pipes a certain way to make the water go into the hole and then you dump water down it!

HOW TO HUNT FOR TREASURES by Lindsay Zaslaw
Walk around and find treasures where there’s rocks and a fence, then put them in a cup.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH MAGNA TILES by Aidan Peterson
You can make a big huge block out of them. I just like to play with them, but not always. You can use squares to make triangles.

HOW TO DRESS UP by Melissa Whitmore
You put stuff on you, like shoes, a dress, and a crown.

HOW TO JUMP ROPE by Mia Edmonds
You get a jump rope and you put it by your toes, then you swing it and jump.

HOW TO BUILD A RULER BRIDGE by Michael Christesen
First you need a mouse door, and you need 5 metal Westcott rulers with one rounded end with a hole in the rounded end. You take one ruler and put it in the mouse door so it sticks out a little. Then you take one ruler and put it on the other side and weigh it down. Make the bridge over a wide space. The last step is to adjust the rulers before you begin placing vehicles on the bridge.

HOW TO SIT ON TOP OF THE CHIN-UP BARS by Natalie Feyrer
You hold onto the bars with 2 hands. Get one leg up onto the bar by walking up the post or by swinging your legs and wrapping your one leg around the bar at your knee. Hold onto the post with your hands and wrap your other leg around the post while you pull yourself up to sit on top of the bar. You then can pull your other leg around.

HOW TO BE A BIG SISTER by Olivia Evans
Play with your little sister (or brother).
HOW TO MAKE A BROOM by Riley Brooks
You get a stick and then you take a little plastic thing that has to be a certain way, and you take strings of wheat and you put them together in a certain way and it will turn into a broom.

HOW TO PLAY OUTSIDE by Shantel Zhou
Go outside and play gently. Have fun.

HOW TO MAKE SECONDARY COLORS by Wyatt Cusick
Mix red and blue together to make purple. Mix red and yellow to make orange. Mix blue and yellow to make green.

HOW TO MAKE A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT by Zane Schiffman
You take paper tubes or any kind of tube—but not pipes—and then you tape them together and then you make some holes. Then you paint or color them. Then you make some more blow holes. And then you can play your instrument with a band!

The Grizzlies have really bonded and enjoy being here together. Of course there are the inevitable squabbles and misunderstandings, but the children know how to talk out their problems to clear the air and make things right. Old friendships are deepening, and new connections seem to be blossoming constantly. We see in the children an increasing ability to understand each other, and to understand the cause and effect in their relationships. They are becoming less egocentric as they master the ability to share, take turns, cooperate, and see things from another person’s point of view. While still young children, they are taking bigger steps out into the wider world. They are becoming increasingly capable in so many ways. They really are growing up and beginning to move out of early childhood…. sigh…. Oh, they are doing just what they’re supposed to be doing, and they’re doing it so well! It makes me think of an old song and poem by Malvina Reynolds, “Turn Around.”

Where are you going, my little one, little one,
Where are you going, my baby, my own?
Turn around and you're two, Turn around and you're four,
Turn around and you're a young girl going out of my door.

Turn around, turn around/ Turn around and you're a young girl going out of my door.

Where are you going, my little one, little one,
Little dirndls and petticoats, where have you gone?
Turn around and you're tiny, Turn around and you're grown,
Turn around and you're a young wife with babes of your own.

Turn around, turn around/ Turn around and you're a young wife with babes of your own.

We will be arranging to meet with you for conferences in early May.

With our very best, Carol & Karen
Dear Parent or Guardian,

Child care organizations nationwide have joined together to declare Friday, May 7 to be **Child Care Provider Appreciation Day** this year. 'Provider' refers to the person/people caring for children in both child care centers and homes. Locally, the Upper Valley Child Care Association and Child Care Project have again collaboratively planned a celebratory event for your child care provider on this evening at the River Valley Club in Lebanon, NH. We hope you'll encourage your provider to attend.

To assist us in honoring providers, we invite you to send us a statement about why YOUR child care provider is so special to you and your family.

Just complete the attached form and return it by May 4 to: Child Care Project, 17 1/2 Lebanon Street, Suite 2, Hanover, NH 03755; or even better, email it sooner to: Anita.Dole@Dartmouth.EDU and we'll print it for you.

The paragraph can be adult- or child-written. Your testimonial will be on display during our provider appreciation celebration and sent home with your child(ren)'s provider following the event.

We also encourage you to take advantage of this day to show your child care provider directly how much you appreciate her/his hard work and dedication. It takes a special person to work in this field and these individuals are often unrecognized and under-appreciated by our society. Ideas... get together with other families to create a surprise; send flowers, a card or a handwritten note of appreciation; bring breakfast or lunch for your provider and for the children; work with your child to create a special remembrance; donate something to your provider’s classroom or the center; key in on your provider’s hobbies and buy her/him an appropriate gift. Use your imagination and remember, it really is the thought that counts here!

If you have any questions regarding Provider Appreciation Day or the form attached to this letter, please call Cindy Binzen or Chris Pressey-Murray at the Child Care Project, (603) 646-3233 or (800) 323-5446.
Provider Appreciation Day 2010
Testimonial

Provider & Center/Program Name

_____________________________________________________

Child name ____________________________________  Age _____________
Child name ____________________________________  Age _____________
Child name ____________________________________  Age _____________

Parent/Guardian(s) name
_______________________________________________