



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

Summer 2012

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The DCCCC Olympics And Bike Parade

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From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

When I try to make dinner conversation with my kids it often falls flat. I've read your tips before about helping children recall events at school to relay, so I hardly ever ask, "What did you do today?" because the most common answer is, "Nothing." That, I know, is far from the truth! It is helpful when I ask more focused questions like, "What did you do on the playground today?" but still, we don't get very far into the conversation. Now what?

Signed,

Out of Questions

Dear Question Mark,

Great question! My thinking about talking with children and asking questions goes way back to the days of my training and my first years of teaching. The book Science with Young Children by Bess-Gene Holt comes to mind immediately. I'll recap what Holt has to say about the questions we ask children. I had to dig so deep into my files; the handout was done on a mimeograph!

Happy talking,

Big Jeff

Questions that often go nowhere are ones in which...

.....everybody knows the answer.

"What happens if you go barefoot in the snow?"

Questions like this may be annoying, insulting, or distracting. The exception is if we are all playing a game together that we know is foolish and we are laughing about it together. Once launched this kind of game may be silly and fun, but not educational.

.....there is a correct answer which some people know and some people don't.

"What are baby swans called?"

These questions do not to stimulate discussion or intellectual inquiry. My philosophy – if you know the answer and someone else needs to know it, just tell them. There are more important questions to ask.

.....there is a correct answer and the adult thinks he knows the answer, but he doesn't.

"Why does wood float?"

This is how misinformation is passed on. If you think the answer is "its light", look it up. Battleships are NOT light!

Questions that stimulate discussion are one for which...

... there is no correct answer and most people know that.

"Why do things die?"

This belongs to all of us in question form. There are some questions with no clear answer. We might best just wonder about it together. It is fodder for conversation and reflection.

.....there probably is a correct answer, but no one present knows it.

"What kind of rock is this?"

These are exciting questions with lots of learning and conversation potential.

They can be answered with, "I don't know either. Let's find out." Then off you go to examine the rock more carefully so you'll be ready for your library and internet search.

...each person has his or her own correct answer.

"How do you feel about that?"

"What do you think?"

"How could we find out?"

"How would you describe it?"

These are great discussion starters. Each person's answer is unique to him or her. It's always right and there is always something to talk about.

Messages from Big Jeff

Please help children remember our new rule: We enjoy the apple tree outside the west entrance from the ground. Sorry, no climbing.

The DCCCC tuition increase will appear in your October bill. This is necessary to cover the cost of salary increases and it is implemented proportionately across the fee scale. It's the first fee increase in four years. The fee scale will be in your cubbies and on the website this week.

DCCCC Fee Scale Monthly Fees 2012-2013

<u>Cat.</u>	Family Income	Teddies	Pandas	Koalas	Woollies & Polars	Full Day Grizzlies	After K Grizzlies
		infants	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-5 years	kindergarten	
1	0-35,000	714	643	600	586	455	343
2	35,001-40,000	795	715	668	651	507	382
3	40,001-45,000	897	807	754	735	573	431
4	45,001-50,000	1010	910	849	829	645	485
5	50,001-60,000	1135	1021	954	930	724	545
6	60,001-70,000	1254	1128	1053	1028	800	602
7	70,001-80,000	1373	1237	1154	1126	877	659
8	80,001-90,000	1514	1362	1272	1241	966	726
9	90,001-100,000	1625	1463	1365	1332	1037	779
10	100,001- 110,000	1781	1604	1496	1436	1137	855
11	110,001- 120,000	1850	1666	1555	1482	1181	888
12	120,001+	1914	1722	1608	1544	1221	919

From Sunnie:

Happy Summer!

☆ Let the children PLAY
stomp in PUDDLES climb trees
Dig in the Dirt go on a
bug hunt make mud Pies
ROLL DOWN a hill build
a cubby make a Daisy chain
create a garden for fairies

Playing
outside
makes
children

☆ smarter
🌿 healthier
🍁 happier

☆ Let the children PLAY

<http://progressiveearlychildhoodeducation.blogspot.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pictures are Coming!

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, October 5

will be school photo day

**More information as the
day draws closer.**

**DCCCC Will Be Closed
On The Following Days:**

Monday, Aug. 27 – Prepare for new year

Tuesday, Aug 28 – Prepare for new year

Monday, Sept. 3 - Labor Day



**Rory and Deagan
have arrived!**

**Congratulations to Polar Raquel and her husband
Garrett**

Resources for Families

Wednesday, Aug. 8, Drive-In Movie Day in Lyme: 7 p.m., Converse Free Library, 38 Union St. Children ages 5 and up make cardboard cars and "drive" them to see a movie. Bring a cardboard box that a child can sit in. Free. 603-795-4622.

Wednesday, Aug. 8, Family Movie Night in Fairlee: 7 p.m., Fairlee Public Library, 221 Route 5. Appropriate for all ages. Call for title. Free. 802-333-4716.

Friday, Aug. 10, Annual Lollipop Festival in Claremont: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Veterans Park, 25 Veterans Park Road. Festivities include carnival games, pie eating contest, rides and a cake walk. Free. Lollipops \$1 for 10. Sponsored by Claremont Parks and Recreation. 603-542-7019.

Friday, Aug. 10, Van Lodostov Family Circus in Woodstock: 5 p.m., Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way. Performance features the students of the Van Lodostov circus camps \$5. 802-457-2500.

Saturday, Aug. 11, General Store Benefit Festival in Barnard: Noon-5 p.m., Barnard General Store, lakefront and town common, 6134 Route 12. Children's games, DJ and live music, paddleboat races and historic exhibits. Free admission. Barnard Community Trust, Barnard Historical Society and others. 802-234-9653.

Saturday, Aug. 11 Take a hike with:

- Velvet Rocks Hike at 1pm
Meet Doug McIlroy, Hanover Town Trails Committee at 1pm behind the Hanover COOP Service Station
RSVP via email to doug@cs.dartmouth.edu
- Smarts Mtn Hike at 9am
Meet Matt Stevens, ATC at 9am at the Lambert Ridge Trail Head
RSVP via email to mstevens@appalachiantrail.org
- Happy Hill Trail Hike (Elm Street Norwich to Rte 14 West Hartford) at 9am
Meet Heinz and Inge Trebitz, Ottauquechee Section of GMC at 9am at Dan&Whit's. RSVP via email to ih63@wavecomm.com

75th Anniversary of the A.T. Celebration in Hanover, NH
<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/promo/75th-anniversary/upcoming-celebrations/2012/08/01/75th-anniversary-of-the-a.t.-celebration-in-hanover-nh>

Saturday, Aug. 11, View Perseids Meteor Shower in West Hartford: 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Clifford Park, Recreation Drive. Bring a flashlight, blankets and chairs for a community viewing of a meteor shower. Free. Hartford Parks and Recreation. 802-295-5036.

Sunday, Aug. 12, "Antique Tractor Day" at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Route 12 North and River Road. Visitors view restored tractors made from the 1930s to the 1960s. Free with admission \$3 to \$12, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Sunday, Aug. 12, Hike Along Storrs Pond Ring Trail in Hanover: Two-mile hike through a wooded area involves short ups and downs that are especially easy on the knees. Led by Inge for the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club. Free. 802-296-5777.

Monday, Aug. 13, Family Soccer Night in White River Junction: 6-7:30 p.m., Watson Park, 1120 Maple St. Drop-in soccer for adults and children under the supervision of Connie Reimer. Free. Sponsored by Hartford Parks and Recreation. 802-295-5036.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, Dancing in the Park in Lebanon: Noon-1 p.m., Colburn Park, downtown. Dance with the students from Creative Movement School of Dance. Free. Sponsored by Lebanon Recreation and Parks. 603-448-5121.

Friday, Aug. 17, Community Campfire in Wilder: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Kilowatt Park, Gillette Street. Campfire foods, stories, games and star gazing for all ages. Free. Sponsored by Hartford Parks and Recreation. 802-295-5036.

Saturday, Aug. 18, Pinocchio in Haverhill: 7 p.m., Court Street Arts, 75 Court St. A production of the National Marionette Theater is suitable for ages 4 and up \$5 or \$10. Cafe open for drinks and desserts. 603-989-5500.

Recent Events at DCCCC







News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

April Buchanan,
Assistant Teacher

Teddy One has been hopping this summer! We have welcomed three new families. Anne is constantly smiling and almost crawling. Her parents are Tammy and Ryan. Jillian is very sweet and seems to have settled right in. Her parents are Jackie and Charles. Haoyi loves checking out all the toys and going outside. His parents are Jifeng and Xiaoxin. Please introduce yourselves to our new additions.



Our "old crew" have been visiting their new rooms. Owen likes checking out the Koalas and Carter investigates the sensory table in the Koala Room. Kirsten has been arriving to school and going right into the Koalas for a visit and snack.

Remi has been away, but he will rejoin us and start visiting with his new teachers.

Grace and Dara have been to visit the Pandas. Grace will wave to her new teachers and Dara goes right to the kitchen area to "cook" food. Cleo will love having a climber/slide right in her classroom.



The "old timer" that is staying in Teddy One just turned One Year Old! Madelyn had her birthday and took off for a vacation with her parents the next day!

We have done lots of water play during the hot weather. Everyone likes pouring, splashing and making mud! We even have a new water table for the front yard.

If your child is moving on, please stop by their new classrooms anytime. Going through the new room in the morning just to say hello and talking about their new teachers at home help with the transition that is to come.

This is our last newsletter of this school year. We want you to know how much we enjoy being with your child and seeing them grow throughout the year. It is truly a pleasure to be here each day. There are lots of smiles and cuddles throughout each day. We are proud to be a part of your lives.

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and April



News from Teddy Too

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher

(¡Saludos!)

Greetings from the Teddy Too Room!

What a hot summer it has been, but us Teddies keep our 'cool'! Water play continues to be our favorite kind of play outdoors and it helps us get to know some of our future Panda Teachers who have been at the playground with us. With Susan, Jenn and Teresa (Panda Teachers), we have done some gross motor activities in the Big Multi, joined them during story time, sing-alongs, cooking projects and have begun lunch time at the Panda classroom! How exciting this has been! Teddy Parents have been incredibly helpful with this transition by bringing their children to the Panda Room in the mornings during drop-off; some of them have been saying their

'goodbyes' from there and arriving to the Teddy Room much later with a Panda Teacher, wow! (I think at the very beginning of these changes, we all thought differently on the outcome of this transition, now we all just chuckle at the splendid reality!)

Welcome to Augustin Reder, officially a Teddy Too, as were both his sisters! We have said our official goodbye to Faith and her family: "Good luck in all your new adventures!" Ian and Irena will be on vacation for most of the summer and returning as Pandas: "We miss you already!" The others will be taking shorter trips until the fall; and our three youngest Teddies will still be with us this fall... thank goodness!

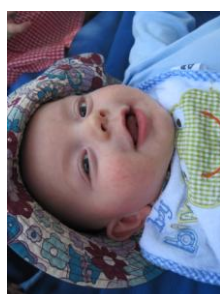
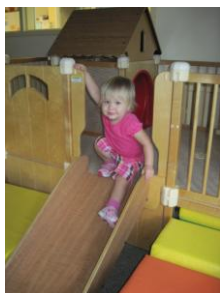
We've had a few visitors from the future Teddy Families and we are delighted about what the fall will be like.

Here are a few pictures of the summer fun times we've been having...

Happy Summer to all.

Ray and the Teddy Too Crew





News from the Panda Bears

Susan Young,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Teresa Hahn
Assistant Teacher

WAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!! I cannot believe almost a whole year has gone by with this wonderful group of Pandas. At this time last year, your children were visiting the Panda room. I'm betting some of you were a little hesitant about the move and some of you had already dealt with the wild panda teachers and seemed quite comfortable. I was counting today and we have a record number of returning families... 7 to be exact. How cool is that??!! It's already brought tears to my eyes thinking about saying goodbye to these kiddos and you wonderful parents. I will miss you all so you better stop in to say hi sometimes or I'll hunt you down!!!

We are saying so long to Tejasi as she moves to the Woolly bear room on July 30th. Liam is heading to Germany for the rest of the

summer and Gabriel is in Spain until his return as a Koala. Greta will return from her month in England shortly. I'm sure you all know that children are visiting their fall classrooms for play times and meal times. We'll continue this as the summer continues, being sure all kids have had adequate visit time.



This has been a banner Panda garden year, thanks to Teresa and her WICKED GREEN THUMB!! (and a great load of compost!) We have already eaten chives, sugar snap peas, spinach, zucchini, cukes, baby carrots, lettuce, basil and mint. The tomatoes are out of control as are the zucchini plants. I loved watching a

bunch of children pick spinach and munch away. And check out the sunflower house!! We already have plans to add several more raised beds next year. We will be having a wonderful "FARMER'S MARKET" end of the year snack using lots of the veggies we've grown. I'll send out the date as soon as we confirm it. The Pandas love to go on "garden tours". We go check out how things are growing and what's ready to eat and nibble. The



rapid growth has been great for this group as they can really see the changes. Now we're waiting for those tomatoes to ripen and beans to come into it.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer and do know how much you all will be missed in the fall!!

Fondly

Susan for the Panda team



News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Teacher

Loey Crooks,
Assistant Teacher

Memorable Koala Quotes 2011-2012

- “Did you know I have teeth and Boobies?”
 - “Oh nuts,” that is what my daddy says.”
 - “I ate the sandbox.” (Mouth very full of sand)
 - “Oh no, my underwear peed.”
 - “I don’t want to poop and scoot.” (while riding the scooter)
 - “That classroom is filled with my friends.” (while peering in the window outside the Koala Room)
 - “I dived on the dirt like a dolphin.”
 - “...But if my eyes are closed I can’t see you!” (one reason out of several for not wanting naptime)
 - “When I grow up, I want to play at my work.”
- “You can have one of my Boo boos.”
 - “Stop your attitude! I don’t want a man.”
 - “I am a fragile child.”
 - “Some pee escaped.”
 - “I am going to college and sleep.”
 - “I like to go to Mc- Moe- Donald’s.”
 - While holding her chicken nugget child says, “Hey! Look I am eating Henny Penny.”
 - Teacher-“Do you speak another language?”
Child- No I speak ordinary

This is my absolute favorite letter to write. Yes it is easy, but that is not why. What children say is from their very unique perspective and before they are taught to have filters on what they say. Hope you all enjoy it as much as the teachers in the Koala room have.

Happy end of year!
Terri Hollis/ Koala Team

News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Moya Stevens,
Assistant Teacher

Tick, Tock goes the Woolly Bear Clock.
It's winding slowly down to the end.
Soon it will be time to begin again.
As old friends leave, and new friends come.

Featuring, the Woolly Bears of the 2011-2012 year! Here are just a few of our favorite memories from the year. We wish our graduating Woollies lots of fun in Kindergarten. Come back and visit us soon!



Stella: Art activities
Exploring space

Wyn: Music
Making cement

Eliza: Music
Dancing

Noah: Finding treasures
Superheroes

Zosia: Singing
Drawing

Odin: Big body play in the multi
Legos

Jackson: Riding bikes
Trains

Lea: Drawing
Dressing up with jewelry

Owen: Running in the sprinkler
Playing in the sandbox

Cosima: Reading aloud to friends
Wearing costumes and hats

Alex V: Playing chase
Construction projects

Andrew: Swinging high
Construction projects

Alex W: Big trucks
Playing in the sandbox

Mary: Glitter and sparkles
Painting and messy play

Sean: Dinosaurs
Reading books

Kate: Playing sports and guitar
Math

Aidan: Trains
Water play and puddles

Nicolo: Playing Chase
Water play

Ben: Trucks
Silly faces and songs

Alistair: Reading books
Big construction vehicles

News from the Polar Bears

Elizabeth Harrington,
Lead Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Teacher

Raquel Fluette,
Assistant Teacher

Time flies when you're having fun! I can hardly believe that we are standing on the brink of the month August. Summer has been a busy time for the Polars. We've made lemonade for the whole center, decked out our bicycles in streamers and stickers and rode "like the wind" in the Bike Parade, and found ourselves playing in the cool of the pool or sprinkler when the temperature grew high. We engaged in various beach-themed activities during our four-day Beach Week and dove into a great deal of Ocean activities, answering many questions including "Why do people go on boats?" and "Why is ocean water different than pond water?" Various flipper and goggle-wearing expeditions still occur on our green carpet area for various treasures!

And just like any family, there are times that we have to say goodbye. In June we said goodbye to Kyle, July brought both hellos and goodbyes to Oona and soon we'll share our goodbyes to Teresa. August brings the departure of Linle, William, Ethan, and Claire and the big move to the Grizzlies by CJ, Avery, Mya, and Elyse. You may have heard words about "Goodbye Books" here and there- the "big" Polars are very excited to receive them and enjoy a special circle about their time in our "family." We are ready to move on to new adventures!

Not only will our room be experiencing the change of children, but in our team as well. Raquel will be leaving us to spend time with her new family. During that time we will be joined by Miranda. We are very excited to have her! We will be happy to have Raquel visit with us from time to time. I'd also like to thank the many people who helped us through the summer, and to all of the Polar families! It is very important to have such a strong support team for these children- and it shows ten-fold in their growth and maturation throughout this year.

Here's to the many new adventures ahead with our new team, as well as new and returning Polar families; and best wishes and lots of love to last for years to come for all those who are moving on from DCCCC!

Liz





News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,
Teacher

Our Grizzlies are almost First Graders! Your child is about to finish his or her last few weeks at DCCCC. What a milestone...especially for those of you whose children have been with us since they were infants or toddlers! It has been a terrific year getting to know each of these children and watching them grow and develop. It's a privilege to have witnessed their many magical moments of wonder, discovery, creativity and friendships. The list of our activities and accomplishments for this year is impressive for us as a group and for each child as an individual. We have got some amazing readers, musicians, athletes, artists, scientists, mathematicians, inventors, and the list goes on... More importantly however, the children have grown in confidence, independence and in getting along with others in all kinds of situations.

Grizzlies have come a long way with their willingness to try new things and really have become important members of this "community". They have worked hard on recognizing individual strengths and learning appropriate ways of using those talents to encourage and support others wanting to be able to learn the same. Rather than teasing, so much more caring and understanding has been happening and there is a great deal of teaching each other, being more patient with one another and a desire to practice in order to make improvements. It is a joy to see the children playing together for the mere pleasure of being together and having fun rather than it always coming down to a competition. We have emphasized and played many games and have had ample discussions and activities to help children become more aware of cooperating, using good sportsmanship, sharing ideas and listening to one another.

Our swimming lessons this summer have been a huge success thus far and we've had great weather on these days allowing for us to remain at Storrs for a significant part of the day. We will spend the last month bringing closure to our time together. We will talk about our memories and the good times we have shared, as well as our worries and hopes for First Grade. We've begun welcoming visits from the children and families who will be in the next group of Grizzlies. The Grizzlies have shown great empathy as they greet and introduce themselves and the room to these younger children coming in. It's been wonderful watching them take these children under their wings and show them around to teach them what they feel are the important things to know.

Our 7 new summer Grizzly friends have comfortably settled into the room. They instantly and enthusiastically were accepted into the group and have brought great energy and ideas to the group. Throughout the summer the group dynamics change daily. The children have done well with these different schedules and friends each day. From now until the official last

day of Summer Grizzlies on Friday, August 24th we say goodbye to at least one friend each week. We have been fortunate to periodically see some of the Grizzly friends that have ended already either at the Ray School, down at Storrs or at events and activities in the evenings and weekends.

This is always a difficult letter for us to write. It's not easy to say goodbye after we've been together and so close, day after day for almost a year. We hope that during this brief time of being in our care that each child has felt safe, loved, happy and free. Each "last day" brings a celebration and the excitement of things to come! You have been a most supportive, generous and remarkable group of parents. The fine job you do raising your children is very much a part of the versatile and delightful people they are becoming. We will miss you.

Happy 6th Birthdays to...

Beckett Sobel on July 1st

Katie Pierson on July 7th

Milo Connolly-Zebo on July 11th

Aaron Nyhan on August 4th

Save the Dates:

Friday, August 24th at 4:30pm

Saturday, October 27th at 1:00pm

Grizzly families are invited to join us for a 4:30 snack and goodbye celebration on the last day of Grizzlies- August 24th! In addition, we will hold our annual Reunion for the 2011-2012 Grizzly Class in October. In the Fall, your child will receive a letter in the mail with more details about this. It is exciting to come back together after we have all settled into a new school year and have another opportunity to play and reminisce together!

Please keep in touch,
Karen



CHILDREN ARE...

AMAZING, acknowledge them
BELIEVABLE, trust them
CHILDLIKE, allow them
DIVINE, honour them
ENERGETIC, nourish them
FALLIBLE, embrace them
GIFTS, treasure them
HERE NOW, be with them
INNOCENT, delight with them
JOYFUL, appreciate them
KINDHEARTED, learn from them
LOVABLE, cherish them
MAGICAL, fly with them
NOBLE, esteem them
OPEN MINDED, respect them
PRECIOUS, value them
QUESTIONERS, encourage them
RESOURCEFUL, support them
SPONTANEOUS, enjoy them
TALENTED, believe in them
UNIQUE, affirm them
VULNERABLE, protect them
WHOLE, recognise them
XTRASPECIAL, celebrate them
YEARNING, notice them
ZANY, laugh with them