



# News From the DCCCC Office

January 2016

Jeff Robbins, Director  
Sunnie McPhetres, Assistant Director

Dawn Cote, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Small, PM Administrative Assistant

## Staff

### Chickadee One

Michele Estes  
Denise Ayers  
Judy Labrie

### Chickadee Too

Teresa Hahn  
Lori Higgins  
Moya Stevens

### Owls

Debbie Burnham  
Wendy Irwin  
April Buchanan

### Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague  
Jenn Boudro  
Anna Fuller

### Otters

Susan Quimby Young  
Joel King  
Jen Murphy

### Badgers

Terri Hollis  
Miranda Arruda  
Valerie Stefani

### Black Bears

Amy McLellan  
Barb Merchand  
Kelly Bosma

### Floating Assistant

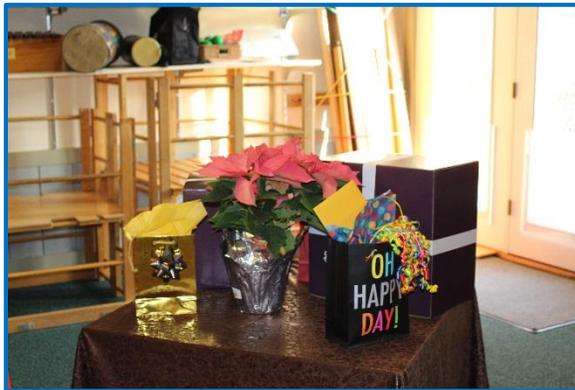
### Teachers

Liz Harrington  
Katie Robinson  
Eileen Ruml  
Kristin Cole  
Brian Goodness  
Terri Crane

## News From the Office

### So-Long Terry, Welcome Karen, One More on the Way

Terry Chase did indeed retire. We held out hope that she would change her mind, but life without working was just too attractive! Her last day was December 11, 2015. Terry did not want a big celebration, so we had a small celebration for staff. We have great memories of Terry in the office over the years and we will hold her to her promise of coming back to visit!



## Hello Karen!

Karen Small will be joining our office staff on Monday, January, 25, 2016. She will be in the office every day from 1:30-5:30. Karen comes to us with a varied background with a great deal of lab experience which means great attention to detail! You will hear her voice on the intercom and see her face when you pick up your children. Karen will be largely responsible for making sure that children's records and immunizations are up to date, so you'll be hearing from her on occasion! She is looking forward to being in a happy learning environment. Stop by the office to say hello when you come to pick up your children in the afternoon!

## One More to Go!

We are currently in the process of hiring another part-time administrative assistant to work in the morning. We are very close! There should be details in the February Quarterly Newsletter. In the meantime, you'll continue to see Sunnie or Dawn and occasionally Jeff when you arrive in the morning!

## Before the Break

We had a really fun all-center pajama day and sing-a-long in the multi. It was great that some of you were able to join us! You'll find pictures from the sing-a-long throughout this newsletter.



## Dear Big Jeff

Dear Big Jeff,

Just read this article and would love to hear your professional reaction to it.

The New Preschool is Crushing Kids

Erika Christakis

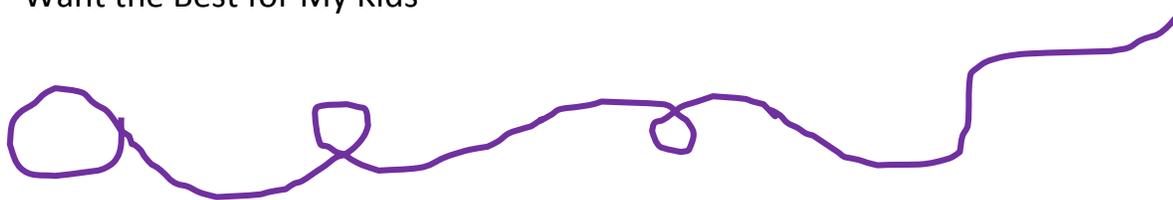
The Atlantic

Jan-Feb. 2016

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/01/the-new-preschool-is-crushing-kids/419139/>

Signed,

Want the Best for My Kids

A purple scribble signature consisting of several loops and a long horizontal line that ends in a small upward curve.

Dear Wants the Best,

We have such a good match here – we want what’s best for your kids, too! There is no universal “what’s best for kids” but this article provides a great platform for the discussion of what’s important in the teaching of young children. I had a strong and immediate reaction, so I’m happy to respond based on my training, experience and values.

Christakis provides a compelling article with a critical premise – children’s richest learning is accomplished through play and interaction. In good preschool programs the role of the teacher is to set the stage and let the action unfold, all the while being ready (and willing) to drop one line of inquiry and pick up another. On the other side of the coin, a good teacher must be ready to facilitate

endless rounds of silly jokes and the reading of favorite stories over and over again as concepts and skills are acquired, examined and reviewed. A good teacher knows when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em. Curriculum in successful programs reflects both what children have already learned and what's next to learn. It is both universal and idiosyncratic. There is no curriculum model that is relevant for all the children who may find themselves subjected to it. Good curricula must be developed by the people (children, parents and teachers) who it affects.

Has childhood and early education changed in the US in the last half century? Of course. But I'd propose that parenting and family life have changed even more. Ask me about that next month. Over the last 40 years, I've been a preschool teacher, a professor of child development and family relations and a child care administrator (since 1984 at DCCCC), I see far more similarities in early education and in children themselves than I see differences. This may be because my entry into the field came at a time when out-of-home child care was burgeoning, so early care and education programs have always been a norm for me. Also, most of my career has been spent in college towns working with bright, well cared for children whose parents value their education and are pretty savvy consumers of early care and education.

I am absolutely concerned for the wellbeing and happiness of children pushed into overly structured programs. These programs may have a narrow focus on what adults can easily identify as "academic learning". I worry that such programs don't include enough play, social interaction, fresh air, exercise and time for children to talk with teachers and with peers. Despite the current push it is not reasonable to expect that all children will learn to read before first grade or even by the end of first grade. Some do; some don't. Neither being an early reader nor a late reader is much of an indication of future learning, educational success or life happiness. What does hamper children is the sense of failing kindergarten! I worry, too, that early education programs will become increasingly oriented to traditional learners, leaving the creative and the kinesthetic learners behind. Children who sit quietly and stay on task already succeed best in schools providing, on the whole, additional challenges for boys.

I can't conclude without some classic Big Jeff advice, I suppose, so here you go:

Have fun

Talk, read, play

Go outdoors

Eat good food

Avoid extremes

Remember "It's a stage."

Passionately,

Big Jeff



As the lynchpin good early ed classroom, the teacher must:

-operate from a sound understanding of child development and early childhood education,

-develop a strong positive and caring relationship with the child and his/her family,

-create a well-equipped and well-functioning classroom environment

-know each child as an individual, sensitively assessing children's skills and interests

-provide plenty of interesting and age-appropriate things to do and to think and talk about

-inspire a child's self-confidence in his/her own thinking granting permission to noodle on, and question, any topic under the sun

-assist children in developing language and social skills that underlie future success in all ventures

-trust the process and let learning unfold

# Activities, Announcements, and Things to Know



## Snow Days

Typically DCCCC has a late opening time of 9:00 when Hanover schools close or open late due to inclement weather.

DCCCC will make an independent determination about a late opening if Hanover schools

- a.) Are on vacation
- b.) Announce closure a day in advance
- c.) Make a morning decision to close school in anticipation of poor PM driving conditions.

A late opening at DCCCC will be announced on:

- WMUR TV Channel 9 and [www.WMUR.com](http://www.WMUR.com)
- WCAX TV Channel 3 and [www.WCAX.com](http://www.WCAX.com), (go to weather, select school closings)
- Whenever possible, Jeff will send an e-mail to all families, but TV and websites are your most reliable source of information.



## DCCCC will Be Closed

**Monday, March 14** – In-service training

**Monday, May 30** – Memorial Day

**Monday, July 4** – Independence Day

## Reminder

It is important to be out of the building by 5:30. The winter months can add to the time it takes to depart. Please plan accordingly!

# Excellence in Child Care Awards



**Hello All,**

Early Learning NH is calling for nominations for our

*2016 Excellence in Child Care Awards.*

If you know someone worthy of this award, please fill out the [nomination form](#).

Nominations will be accepted if postmarked on or before **Friday, February 26th, 2016.**

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

**2015 – Susan Quimby Young**

**2011 – Sunnie McPhetres**



**Storytelling and Marshmallow Roast in Hanover:** Story Time and Marshmallow Roast 11 am to 12 noon Stories will be read to children ages 3-8 accompanied by their parents, by the fireplace in the main room of the Dartmouth Outing Club House. Roast marshmallows by the campfire.



Sunday January 24, 2016  
Sunday January 31, 2016  
Sunday February 7, 2016  
Sunday February 21, 2016



# Parenting Discussion

The Family Place and Green Mountain Children's Center are pleased to host Nancy Linkroum Pennell in a discussion about parenting. Nancy is a mother of 4 adult children and enjoyed a 25 year career as director of Aloha Camp for teenage girls in Fairlee, VT. In that role she developed programs for girls, counseled teens, and trained hundreds of staff in the principles she now bring to her work as a parent/teacher educator. These principles, based on the concepts of Success Counseling, begin with the understanding that relationships are the most important thing. Parenting is really about building trust and positive relationships that create an environment in which children are more likely to choose cooperation. Control Theory guides people to make choices that help them become the person they want to be.

In her practice Nancy uses a variety of parenting sources including Vickie Hoefle's Parenting On Track, Jane Nelson's Positive Discipline, Becky Bailey's Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline, and Michael Thompson's Raising Cain among others. All of these approaches are based on the principles of Success Counseling. They present commonsense strategies and helpful ways of framing the work of raising young children to be the competent, happy, good choice making, centered adults we hope they will become. But mostly it is about becoming the parent you want to be with the children you have been given. We can all be fabulous parents when our children are doing what we want them to do. But how do we stay loving, playful, consistent, calm and mindful when our children are resisting, complaining, whining, fighting and defying. This is our challenge.

Parenting is the best and hardest job there is! Being able to share and learn together can be transformative on this parenting journey.

When

**Monday, January 25, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (EST)**

Where

UU Congregation of the Upper Valley - 320 U.S. 5. Across from The Family Place. Norwich, VT 05055

To register: <https://betheparentyouwanttobe.eventbrite.com>

# Hop Stop in Claremont

Sat Feb 06 2016 - 3:00 PM – Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, 28 South Street, Claremont, NH

Get “In the Mood” and ready to “Jump, Jive and Wail” with local jazz musicians and swing dancer Faye Grearson.

- Seating is on a first-come first-served basis; doors open at 2:30
- Free parking is available in the lot right next to Community Center or across the street at the middle school.





**Join us:**

Kilton Public Library  
Community Room  
**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**  
**6:30-8:00pm**

For international families new to the Upper Valley  
Come learn more about:

- Information on US public schools
- How to communicate with your child's school
- School culture
- Disaster Emergency preparedness
- Cultural effectiveness in dealing with school aspects

Snacks will be provided as well as access to interpreters

A collaboration between  
Lebanon School District  
ELL program and the  
Welcoming All  
Nationalities Network of  
the Upper Valley



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Rebecca Wurdak at 603-448-2945, [rwurdak@sau88.net](mailto:rwurdak@sau88.net)