



# Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

February 2023

## In This Issue:

From the Director	pg. 1
Announcements	pg. 3
Chickadee One	pg 4
Chickadee Too	pg 7
Owl	pg 9
Hedgehog	pg 11
Otter	pg 14
Badger	pg 17
Black Bear	pg 20
Articles and Fliers	pg 23

**Office:** Sunnie McPhetres,  
Abby Plummer, Dawn  
Cote, Karen Small

### Floating Team

Liz Harrington, Will Berman,  
Megan Widli, Sam Estes

## From the Director

Welcome to 2023 at D4C! The staff has pulled together yet again to bring you a newsletter full of fun facts, great pictures, and loads of developmental knowledge. Our aim in providing these quarterly newsletters is to give you a glimpse into the life and development of all our classrooms. I know that you get information daily about your child's classroom, but the quarterly newsletter gives you a peek into what is yet to come or perhaps takes you on a walk down memory lane. It can be amazing to see pictures of babies and read about what they are doing when your child is now 4 years old and doing so many different things! Each child grows and develops along their own path, and each path is the proper path.

When you think about development paths at D4C, you may already be wondering which classroom your child may be in next. You may wonder if they will be the oldest in their classroom or the youngest. You may wonder how they will adjust to doing things so differently. You may wonder who the teachers will be and if they will be as wonderful as your current teachers. So much to wonder about. My best advise is to enjoy your child and their classroom right now. Look at articles from other classrooms and get an idea of what is next but realize that no matter where your child is next, the teachers will create a program unique to them!

Dawn will start the Fall enrollment process in mid-March by sending out a survey to ask about your fall scheduling needs. This starts a long process of placing children in their next classrooms. When we have all of the information that we need from current families, we do a rough sketch of where we think current children will be in the Fall. When we know the needs of current families, we then move to the waitlist to fill open spots in the older classrooms and enroll as many babies as we can.

It changes every year. Some years, the Black Bear Room is just right for the number of 4-year-old children we have. Some years we have too many 4-year-olds and we need to have some in the Badger Room as well. Some years we do not have enough 4-year-olds to fill the Black Bear Room, so we place some older 3-year-olds in there and they stay for 2 years. Some years all the Chickadees are ready to move on and there is space for them. Some years some of the Chickadees are too young to move on so they spend a second year in the Chickadee classrooms. Most often, Chickadees do not all move to the same classrooms. There are some Chickadees who are ready for the big leap to the Hedgehog Room and some who will thrive in the Owl room. Likewise, there are times when some Owls move to the Hedgehog Room and times when they jump right into the Otter Room. Each year, we look at individual children and what is best for them. I do consult with teachers if there are any children who may need some special consideration. If we are really torn about the best placement for your child, we will reach out to you to get your opinion (this happens most often for children who just miss the current kindergarten cut off age where they live).

I know that it sounds like a daunting process, but it always works out. We are so fortunate to have a staff who is able to work with a variety of ages and understands developmentally appropriate programming. Since returning from COVID, we have also developed a mindset that teachers can move from room to room if it seems appropriate as well. Flexibility, looking at the needs of individuals, and assessing the needs of the program as a whole, all work together to make each transition successful!

I hope that you all enjoy the newsletter this month. The next issue will be out in May!

Sunnie

# ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

## [Montshire Museum of Science](#) [Igloo Build](#)

Come experience Igloo Build, one of the longest-running traditions at the Museum. Learn how to build an insulated, sturdy house, strong enough to support the weight of a polar bear.

**February 25, 2023  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm**

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

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023 - Professional Development Day**

**Monday, May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023 - Independence Day**

**Anticipated: Monday and Tuesday, August 28 and 29, 2023**

## [Billings Farm and Museum](#)

### **April 8, 10am – 4pm: Opening Day**

Billings Farm & Museum invites you to ring in our 40th season on Friday, April 8th!

Enjoy a warm welcome to the season with a free scoop of Vermont-made ice cream at the Farmhouse Café.

Follow the StoryWalk, where page-by-page, the story of “Woolbur” unfolds on signs along the pasture fence or look for the lambs hidden within the Farm Life exhibits.

## [Billing Farm and Museum](#)

### **April 9, 10am – 5pm: Baby Animal Celebration**

The cutest event of the year is back at Billings Farm & Museum, April 9 & 10, 10AM – 5PM! Meet some of the farm’s newest additions up close. Pet lambs and goat kids. Hold a peeping chick, meet Jersey calves, piglets, ducklings and bunnies, and learn all about the animals and how they are cared for on the farm.

Make an adorable chick or piglet pom-pom craft. Celebrate springtime by planting an heirloom seed in a peat pot to take home.

The Wicked Awesome Food Truck will be at Billings Farm Saturday and Sunday, serving delicious lunch options from 11AM – 4PM.

## [Vermont Institute of Natural Science](#) (click link to view scheduled activities)

### **Great Backyard Bird Count – February 18, 10am – 4pm**

Enjoy watching birds at your feeders? Want to learn more about helping the birds in your community? Then put your bird watching skills to work at VINS as we celebrate the Great Backyard Bird Count. Visit us and learn to count birds for science!

Join the global wildlife science phenomenon that is the Great Backyard Bird Count! Learn how watching the birds at your feeders can help researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society understand what birds do in the winter. As a naturalist, you’ll be one of thousands of people around the world celebrating these delightful creatures. This year, put your bird-watching skills to work in your own backyard!

## News from the Chickadee Ones

Ashley Flannery  
Lead Teacher

Margaret Fraser

Prajna Mohapatra

I cannot believe we are already in a new year; time is truly flying! There has been so much growth and excitement happening in our classroom since we started together in the fall. We have spent a lot of time outside with the little bit of snow that we have had, but winter is not over yet and there will be plenty more snow for us to venture out into. As a reminder we do try and go outside as much as we can depending on the warmth of the day. Children should have snow gear to stay at DCCCC that should include boots, snow pants, jackets, mittens, and hats. We do have some extras in case these things are forgotten, but just a friendly reminder we try to get outside daily when temperatures allow it.

The staff and children have made some really great connections and we love playing with both Prajna and Margaret. As everyone knows I will be taking a maternity leave, so there will be new faces in and out of the classroom while I am gone (most likely early-mid February). It would be appropriate for some children to feel a little shy, scared, or upset during drop off, but I can assure you all staff will be great with them and they will adjust just fine! Prajna will also be taking a short leave in February to visit some family in India; very exciting for her!

We continue to enjoy sensory a lot at this stage of the kiddos' development. We painted with blue paint and glitter to make snowy hills for our cute snowman bulletin board in the hallway; if you haven't seen it yet make sure to check it out! We brought some snow inside to play with and that was very exciting! Fish and sea animals in the water table made for a great splashing experience. We are getting excited to move into all of the holidays and the cute art projects we have planned for the coming months!

### Fun facts about the kiddos!



**Miles:** Miles has developed a lot of personality and is learning new vocabulary every day. His favorite things to do are throw balls and sing to his friends at every meal. He is getting excited to become a big brother to a little sister!

**August:** Auggie has grown so much and is running everywhere! Throwing balls and babbling are two of his favorite things to do. He is learning new vocabulary along with loving to sing and dance!



**Violet:** Violet is currently the only girl in a class full of boys, but that does not stop her from being her fun self! She is learning what she wants and needs and is learning to be vocal about it. Violet loves sitting in the rocking chair flipping through pages of books and meal times!



**Otto:** Otto is now a big ONE year old! We had a birthday celebration and that was so fun! Otto is the explorer who is very determined to be where he wants to be! He loves playing king of the mountain on the squishy kitchen climber.

**Freddie:** Freddie is now a big ONE year old celebrating with twin brother! He has the cutest crooked smile that has been coming out more and more! Music has been fun for Freddie; he really enjoys playing instruments and moving his little body.



**Simon:** Simon will be turning ONE in February and he is so close to walking! There have been many instances where he is giving his teachers a brief heart attack when he lets go of things and begins to take small steps forward! He is learning more about himself and is most determined to reach his goals!

**Sebastian:** Babies grow and develop so fast at this age! Bash has mastered sitting up and is currently rolling and moving when he gets put on his tummy. He has started eating some solid foods and is deciding whether or not he likes certain ones. He is smiling all the time and gives the best squishy snuggles!



**Rhett:** Rhett has mastered sitting up and smiling at his favorite teachers! He has started eating some solid foods which has been very exciting for him! He is such a snuggly squish and is not afraid to let his teachers know when he needs those snuggles!

We are excited to see the child's development at all the different stages. As always if there are any child questions or concerns feel free to reach out; we are here to help as much as we can!



# News from the Chickadee Toos

Teresa Hahn  
Lead Teacher

Michelle Ackerman

Leah Ziai

**Finally, winter has arrived. It is nice to have some snow to go with those cold temps. So many changes in three months, as is bound to happen in the Chickadee Too room.**

Our friend Sarah has joined the crew, being the youngest of the group this year. We are getting to know each other and she is getting acquainted with care outside her home.



Sibyl is a big reader. She likes looking at the books by herself, and with friends. She especially likes being read to and will sing the occasional song. She has been enjoying outside time and learning to navigate the snow in her boots!



Teddy is on the move! He is crawling and pulling to stand. He is eating snacks and lunch with us now, he loves his food!

Ivy is sitting beautifully by herself and moving all around on her tummy. She found her voice and is happy to tell us how she is feeling.



River is a very happy guy, he is quick to smile at his teachers and peers. He also has quite the infectious giggle. He is so close to walking independently. He stands without pulling up and cruises along the table and chairs.



Vera has become mobile as well. She scooches on her bottom and “combat” crawls around the room. She loves to converse with her toys & peers.

Jude turned one on February 6<sup>th</sup>. He is pulling to stand as well. He loves music and can often be seen with maracas or bells in each hand, rocking away. He really enjoys his friends and seeks them out to play.



Pippi also recently turned one. She was away for over a month and we really missed her. She perfected her four- point crawl while on vacation. She is now pulling up and cruising along tables and shelves.

Holden is a bundle of energy. He is climbing everything, jumping on the futon, hops across the floor on his knees and is trying to open the gates. He enjoys the climber in the multi, holding on the rails & jumping. He also enjoys talking to himself in the mirrors.



Miriam is talking so much. She is saying all the children’s names and stringing together two – three words. She loves the little ones and enjoys bringing them toys. She loves to pat their heads and rub their backs.

## News from the Owls

Moya Stevens  
Lead Teacher

Maya Lopez

Jyanna Vaughan

Hello Owl Families,

Time is moving so quickly, I can't believe it is February already. We have been busy in the Owl Room since the last newsletter. The children have been having so much fun with new toys, doing activities, playing in the big multi and outside. They are so excited and learned that it is great to play with their friends! It is wonderful to see them hug, hold hands, dance and take turns with toys. This is amazing to watch! We have a full classroom now that Cecilia has joined us.

She has quickly adjusted to her new school and is making new friends. Welcome, Cecilia!

Now the majority of the Owl Classroom is two-year-old children! We have celebrated many birthdays and just have a few more to go. I am sure you have noticed many changes in your little Owl! Two-year-old children love to explore and practice their new skills. Some of their skills are exciting for us adults to enjoy, and some not as much. A two-year-old can have some challenging moments and they are and will be looking at their adults to help guide them. I am including a link for you to read if you would like more information about how to guide your toddler and make your days a bit easier. [16 Limit Setting Tips for Your Toddler or Preschooler | The Baby Sleep Site](#)

We love having people visit and teach in our classroom. You may have noticed new faces from time to time, it is exciting for us and the children to have experiences with different people in a safe environment. You may have noticed every Tuesday we have a special person in our classroom, his name is Mateo and the children love him. We asked him to write a little something in our newsletter so that you can get to know





him a little better and realize the amazing things he shares with us and your children.

*Hi, Mateo here! Working at D4C has been a tremendous joy, and I'd like to take the time to share a little bit more about myself as well as my experience at D4C. In addition to being an assistant teacher in the Owl Room, I'm a part of Dartmouth's class of 2026. I'm from Chicago, Illinois, and I currently plan to major in Linguistics. Language has always been something that's piqued my interest whether it's writing poetry or learning French. It's always so exciting to hear the Owls say new words and phrases, especially now that I'm taking a course on how children acquire language!*

*I first heard about D4C at a Dartmouth job fair last year in September and I was immediately interested because of the past experience I had tutoring. Ever since my teacher evaluation just a few months ago, it feels like the Owls have grown and developed so much! It's been wonderful to see the Owls practice skills like playing instruments and sharing toys with one another. I look forward to every Tuesday because I get to enjoy activities with the Owls such as: reading books, making music, and playing with toys. Every day is full of fun, adventure, and learning! I'm so excited to continue working at D4C as I progress through my years at Dartmouth!*

Happy February! We hope Spring will be coming soon!

Fondly, Maya, Jyanna and Moya



# News from the Hedgehogs

Brendita Barnes  
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro

Emily Courtemanche

Time is flying by so quickly! It is hard to believe that we are around the half-way point of this year. The Hedgehogs have already grown so much and still have so much growing left to do! They are certainly busy kids! There is so much to do and so much to learn. It is hard to keep up with them sometimes. We make sure that they get plenty of outside time, plenty of time to move their bodies, plenty of time to explore different themes and toys, plenty of time to figure things out by doing puzzles, using blocks and Duplos, plenty of time to develop friendships and figure out what to do when those friendships don't go just as you would hope that they would go, plenty of time to feel things and decide what we like to touch and what we don't like to touch. We also provide plenty of time to create. That's what we are focusing on in this newsletter.

You may marvel at all of the different activities that are out and inviting to the kids when they walk in each morning. We've heard more than one of you say, "I'm glad you do that here so we don't have to do it at home." We try really hard to always have an activity out that allows children to explore their creativity. We really try to focus on the process rather than the product. You will hear many teachers say that, but what does it mean? It means that the act of creating and exploring and doing is more important than what the finished product looks like.



Kids might spend more time looking at and feeling the paint or painting implement than actually putting paint on the paper. They are learning about the properties of the materials and figuring out just how they feel, look and function.

They might experiment with lots and lots of paint or glue. They are figuring out what happens when you add more and how things stick better.





They figure out different ways to put marks on paper using different tools and implements.



They learn cause and effect by noticing how the paint looks on their creation or how the glue causes one thing to stick to another.



They develop fine motor skills by holding a marker or using scissors.





They may find creativity in unusual materials.



They may be concerned with placement.



They may focus on one color



or many.

But whatever they choose to do, the process is all theirs and wonderful. Have a creative rest of the winter!

Fondly,

The Hedgehog Team



## News from the Otters

Josie Byam  
Lead Teacher

Hey there, welcome to the Otter room! We have been quite busy this winter season with a multitude of themes and fun activities. Through November to January we have worked on the following themes

- Family
- Turkeys
- Nutrition
- Forest animals
- Welcome winter
- Gingerbread
- Hanukkah
- Christmas
- Kwanza
- Dinosaurs
- Snowmen
- Penguins
- Hibernation
- Polar bears & moving into February we will begin
- Post office
- Friendship
- Transportation &
- The Dentist

The Otters are 2.5 to 3 years of age, we find that talking about the dentist can help them tremendously. Some of them are seeing the dentist for the first time at this age. The Otters also start their letter recognition in the beginning of the new year. We come up with a list of words that start with the letter we are talking about that week and make them into flashcards. We then play scavenger hunt games with them around the classroom. Where we are so new to letters, we take as much time on a specific letter as the kids want too. With our letters we also begin to learn which ones make up our names. We add this to our circle time routine with our songs, shapes, colors, animal sounds, counting, and weather chart! I know all of this sounds like a busy day inside, but I can assure you the Otters see a lot out outside and big body time! We LOVE to go sledding; and have a wonderful big hill just to the left of our school!

Our center has a nice big play area we call the BIG MULTI!!! The otters like to spend a lot of time running around or jumping off towers onto our gymnastics mats. We recently figured out during our penguin week that if we make the ramps steep enough we can slide on our bellies like penguins and polar bears do on the ice!

February brings a new adventure, one I have done for many years! STAR OF THE WEEK! Each week, Otters will take turns being The Star! They then share that poster with the class during circle time. They really enjoy telling all of their friends about the adventures and fun activities they do at home with their family.

Otto the otter is also introduced in February. This handsome little Stuffed animal goes home with each Otter for one weekend with his journal. Each Otter friend then takes photos or creates a page about what they did with Otto. He is then brought

back to school on Monday and prepared to go with the next Otter friend on Friday. Once he has been with everyone we put him and his journal out for everyone to enjoy!

Meet our awesome Otters 😊



Amelia – Shy at first but has the best sense of humor and loves a good group game. She is full of wonderful stories and her favorite topic at the moment is her new puppy Mabel!

Charlie – Loves anything big body and could play with cars and trains all day long! Charlie is a big body sensory guy and loves rough and tough play time in the big multi.



Frankie – The queen of organizing the situation, this girl loves to make sure she's got everything in order when playing! Keeping the stuffed animals up to date on their shots in our veterinary dramatic play is a must for our Frankie!

Henry – Is right there with Charlie at the train station. This guy loves trains as much as he loves some one-on-one snuggles. Henry also enjoys telling us all about his two older brothers and what they have been up to.



Keisuke – A guy full of giggles and energy! Keisuke enjoys singing & dancing in the classroom, running around in the multi or being outside! He also finds jumping into your arms very amusing!

Lucas – The little man who can! Lucas has found himself and is coming out of his shell! He is full of the best sassiness, tricks and laughs. He is constantly keeping us on our toes with the silliness every day!



Olive – Our sweet Olive is the unicorn of the group. Not just because she loves them so much but with her happiness and willingness to help all of her otter friends laugh even when they are feeling sad!

Robin – Robin is the Ohz of Ohz's. Her enthusiasm is a force to be reckoned with regardless of the topic. With silliness and love being what makes most of this girl up, you can almost guarantee a great day 😊



Sia – The best way to describe this sweet girl is SWEET! Her love for dancing can make anyone want to get up and move their feet! Her favorite song is "I'm a Gummy Bear." Oh and you can't forget about her favorite Kitty stuffed animal that comes every day.

Signy – Kind and soft, Signy is like the mom of the Otter group. Always making sure everyone has what they need, like their water bottles for lunch or maybe just a hug because they're feeling a little blue at the moment.



Walter – Oh how Walter will make you laugh! Mr. Energetic and go, go, go! Walter LOVES to sled and has become somewhat of a professional at going down the playground hill backwards. Waving to the teachers as he goes down backwards is one of his finest accomplishments and will ask if you saw him every time!

# News from the Badgers

Cat Kaschak  
Lead Teacher

Jason Clark

Elizabeth Darragh

We can't believe we are on our second newsletter. Where is the time going!

The Badgers have grown so much over the past few months. We have learned to work together while playing and cleaning up. It has been so wonderful to hear phrases like "Can I have a turn when you're done?" become part of the children's independent vocabulary! Our Badgers are also big on helping the teachers prep and set up snacks, lunch and clean the tables off. Some of our friends have even been helping other children put on their outside clothes!



Over the past few months the Badgers have enjoyed music class with Brooke. Everyone is playing instruments, singing, and dancing. We have seen our friends explore new ways to use the instruments, learn many new songs, and become so much more expressive in their dance moves! Our Badgers are now a team of dancing Badgers.



We have had so much fun in our daily outside time, from playing, shoveling, sledding, building snow people, trying to get the snow to stick to the trees out on the playground (which they did, and turned them into snow people also). We have become more and more independent outside as well - pushing our own sleds down the hill and climbing back up without any teacher help (as long as the snow is slippery enough). We've learned a lot about snow as well! Sometimes the snow is soft and wet and makes good snowballs or snow people, but sometimes the snow is hard and dry and is perfect for sledding really fast!



We have made a post office and a large mail truck out of boxes that we painted all together. Then we learned how the mail goes from here to there. In the process of that we have made letters to either family members or pets. As part of writing the letters to our family, we are learning the letters in our name and how to write them. They get so very excited when they accomplish this. It is not perfect and their letters may not be in the correct order but they are rolling right along with it. We have even started to see some of our friends teaching their friends the letters they know (I overheard one friend saying, "see this is an 'M,' it goes up-down-up-down" while looking at our foam letter blocks)! It turns out that the Badgers are not just exceptional learners they are also exceptional teachers as well!





We have story time with Sunnie and we get very excited when Friday is here for that. When the children see Sunnie in the building they stop to ask her if they will be having it this week. It is a special circle with lots of giggles and storytelling. Sunnie loves to include the children's ideas in her stories, so the Badgers always get a chance to help her out!

We've switched up the toys we have in our classroom several times, but one toy that has remained popular the whole year so far is our magna-tiles! Our friends have become master builders with the magna-tiles. They build towers that are almost as tall as they are, houses with many rooms and elaborate roofs, and even some traveling buildings on top of our magna-tile cars! While the teachers are often excited to build with them, this has been mostly a child-directed activity and another great example of the way that the Badgers learn from each other!



We are looking forward to the next quarter, learning so much more.

## News from the Black Bears

Viviana Rodriguez  
Lead Teacher

Anna Blair

Hannah Rowland

So much fun has happened since our fall newsletter! We had two very exciting family events in November and December. For Thanksgiving the Black Bears had their own Thanksgiving feast with all their teachers and friends. Each child was asked to bring in their favorite food to eat on Thanksgiving and believe me it wasn't your usual feast! We had veggie sticks, jello, dumplings, pulled pork, sweet potato marshmallow bake, a frozen cranberry dessert, mini apple pies, buffalo chicken tenders, and more. It was great to see all the excitement in sharing food from home and the process it took to make and pick out each food.



Then in December we had our Christmas Caroling Concert! Black Bears worked very hard practicing their top 6 favorite holiday songs every day from Thanksgiving on. Children brought the lyrics for each song home to practice with their families and had a blast practicing their songs in the classroom-even offering suggestions like using jingle bells during our Jingle Bell performance or making antlers with our hands during our Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer performance. Many families and friends came to this event, even grandmas, aunts, cousins & more. Although the concert was amazing, families also enjoyed the opportunity to

decorate different kinds of cookies and brownies made by the kids that day at our cookie decorating station.



Of course we have celebrated many birthdays since the fall including 4 birthdays coming up in the next coming weeks. Children continue to enjoy our emergent curriculum learning about the themes and topics they are most interested in. We have spent a lot of time learning about different kinds of animals & their ecosystems and have recently spent some time exploring maps of the world, geography & started exploring a couple continents (Africa & Australia.) We also got the opportunity to explore the holiday Chinese New Year, making a jumbo paper chain dragon that we got to dance around the classroom with & making our own togetherness tray to share with our classmates. This curriculum really highlighted the love and appreciation of spending time with friends & families and this was a huge takeaway in the classroom as well.

With these themes we have continued doing a variety of simple science experiments some of the favorites in the past couple months have been our cascading waterfall experiment in which children took turns working together as a team to build a waterfall using dishes & pitchers & our skittles science experiment in which children explored how to make a rainbow w/ skittles & warm water. We have so many other interests at the moment so we will probably take a break from the Continents for a little to make sure we're touching base on each theme of interest. Some upcoming themes include- winter carnival/construction & sports, music & literature, Valentines day, Mardi Gra/Carnival, mythical/spooky creatures, alphabet curriculum, Dr. Suess week, St.Patricks/Ireland week, acceptance/inclusion curriculum for limb differences month & more.



Children continue to love writing workshops and have really exceeded my expectations. Almost all children, even the younger ones, can identify all letters of the alphabet by sight & sound and even point out what words start with the same letter. They have grown very confident in writing their names and have recently explored spelling words w/ magnetic letters & word cards. We continue to set up a variety of writing & letter identification games & activities each week and it's been wonderful watching how proud each child is of their new accomplishments.

This year continues to be a blast and we're very excited to see what new adventures and themes we will get to explore in the coming months!

Sincerely,

The Black Bear Team

# Are you currently pregnant and aiming to breastfeed or breastfeeding?

Researchers in the Goods Lab are seeking volunteers to participate in a study to better understand breast milk and the cells that produce milk.

You will be asked to donate fresh breast milk and answer a series of short questions.

Contact [goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com](mailto:goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com)  
to learn more.



Scan for email

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

Breast Milk Study  
goodslabmilkstudy@gmail.com  
Earn \$20 per donation!

**Enroll Now for Part-time care**  
**Children ages 2-5**  
**Fridays, 8:15 am- 10:40 am**

# KIDS & COMPANY



at Richmond Middle School



## Weekly Hands-on Learning Activities

## Arts & crafts

Snacks provided

First aid / CPR certified



My goal is to teach child development to middle school students while providing enrichment for young learners. This program runs 4/7/23-6/9/23.

**Tear off a slip below to remind yourself of this awesome school**

katherineurquhart@  
hanovernorwickschools.org

katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

 [katherinequhart@hanovernewschools.org](mailto:katherinequhart@hanovernewschools.org)

 [katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org](mailto:katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org)

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

🍌 katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

katherineurquhart@hanovernorwichschools.org

 [katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org](mailto:katherinequhart@hanovernorwichschools.org)

# Encouraging Process Art at Home

## Reaping the Benefits and Joy of Making

Loretta Fernando-Smith



People often think about art as creating something beautiful—a replica *Starry Night* collage or a seasonal craft to serve as a gift. But when children engage in *process art*, they explore and experience materials without working toward a particular end product. In this case, going through the process of making art is more important than the results or outcomes.

There are many benefits to be gained from process art. It can be playful and joyful, and it nurtures having an open mind, trying new things, and building curiosity and resilience. It also requires minimal adult preparation.

You can encourage process art at home without being an artist yourself. And you don't need to go out and buy expensive art supplies. Instead, you can use materials from your home and from nature. Find a flat, roomy space where your child can work (a table, the floor, or even a grassy area can all be great working spaces), then set it with materials that will encourage open-ended exploration. Be sure to include

- › items that can serve as a base for your child's work (cardboard, placemats, clay, or playdough)
- › a variety of objects for your child to explore (paper plates, colored paper, beads, buttons, and natural materials such as sticks and leaves)
- › something that will help your child connect those objects to their base and to each other (masking tape, glue, pipe cleaners)
- › a variety of tools (scissors, various sized brushes, blunt-edged instruments to cut playdough or clay)

While your child creates, consider joining them. You can either work on your own art alongside them or ask to join in whatever they're making. While you don't need to talk the whole time, you can ask some key what, how, and why questions to help your child share what's on their mind as they make art. These could include

- › "What is your plan?"
- › "How will you make it happen?"
- › "Tell me more about why you chose this material?"

If your child is not ready to speak yet, you can put words to their actions by narrating what they are doing. ("I noticed that you stuck pipe cleaners into the playdough to make a birthday cake with candles. What a creative idea!")

Children often encounter challenges during process art. They may become frustrated because their work does not accurately reflect what they're thinking, or they might struggle with a technical issue, such as attaching a cardboard cylinder securely to a box. When this happens, wait: Give your child space to work through a problem and make mistakes along the way. If they ask for your help, acknowledge what they've done, break down the problem, then make a plan for some steps they can take to resolve it.

Stay open-minded about what your child is doing. Their creations might not be what you expect, but the real beauty lies in their journey of thought, exploration, and discovery.

---

**Loretta Fernando-Smith** has the joy and privilege of exploring the world with 4- and 5-year-olds at Frankfurt International School, Germany, where she works as a teacher.

Photograph: © Getty Images

Copyright © 2023 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. See permissions and reprints online at [NAEYC.org/resources/permissions](http://NAEYC.org/resources/permissions).