



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter November 2025

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Coloring the World, One hand at a time

"*Coloring the world* implies that nurturing the potential and imagination of each child in their care will have a positive and enriching impact on the wider world." Each classroom designed a poster or display to showcase in the Big Multi. A bit of friendly competition sparked among the teachers—and the Badgers came out on top! Some examples are below:



From the Director:
Kara Cave



As we wrap up another wonderful year together, we want to wish you and your loved ones a warm, happy, and restful holiday season. Your children bring so much laughter, curiosity, and excitement into our days, and we are truly grateful for the trust you place in us.

It is magical celebrating holidays through your child's eyes. The excitement of seeing relatives, cousins, opening presents, and having delicious meals. In addition to the excitement, it is common for children to have tantrums and/or show behaviors that you do not typically see. Some helpful hints:

- Keeping routines the same (bedtime, naptime, baths, story time, mealtime)
- Providing breaks or quiet spaces for children to go to when they are overwhelmed or overstimulated
- Involving your child in preparation (making cookies, decorating)
- Provide familiar foods and snacks
- Be flexible and enjoy the unexpected!

Support Your Child's Learning During the Holidays! Here are 10 ideas that you can try during your regular activities – cooking, eating, playing, and exploring! [Look here](#)

As January arrives, it brings a fresh start, renewed goals, and a well-earned pause after the busy holiday season. It also gives us a great opportunity to celebrate *you*. Thank you for trusting us with your children, supporting our teachers, and filling each day with your smiles and positivity. Stay tuned - details about our celebrations are on the way!

As you read your child's classroom newsletter and browse the photos, you're greeted with bright, happy faces enjoying their day.

Sincerely,

Kara Cave

**From the Associate Director
Abby Plummer-LaBombard**

As we enter the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many things we are grateful for within the D4C community. Each day, we witness children exploring, questioning, creating, and growing—and it is a privilege to support that journey alongside all of you. Our families, teachers, and staff contribute to a warm and nurturing environment that truly embodies the spirit of community, especially at this time of year.

The coming weeks are filled with excitement, transitions, and special moments for our children. We appreciate your communication around travel plans and schedules, as it helps us ensure consistent, safe, and thoughtful staffing. Thank you in advance for keeping us informed.

I also want to extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated educators. Their patience, creativity, and passion shine brightly during this busy season. Whether they are guiding a classroom project, comforting a child during a tough moment, or finding new ways to bring joy into the day, their impact is felt in countless ways.

As a community, this season invites us to slow down when we can, share moments of connection, and embrace the small wonders that children so naturally remind us to notice. We welcome you to our Center Wide Pajama Sing Along on December 19th at 4pm. This is an annual event that is highly anticipated every year!

We wish all of our D4C families a peaceful, joyful holiday season filled with warmth, wellness, and meaningful time together. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for the many ways you contribute to the heart of our center.

Warmly,

Abby Plummer-LaBombard



Announcements:

Happy Thanksgiving!

D4C will be closed on November 27th and 28th

Professional Development

D4C will be closed on December 12th for our teachers to receive a full day of training.

December 19, 2025

Holiday Sing Along with parents in your favorite pajamas.

Campus Services is collecting canned and non-perishable food items and personal care items for [LISTEN Community Services](#).

The program is open to all employees who can take part, and cost-effective participation strategies include bringing in unexpired items from your pantry or taking advantage of buy-one-get-one-free sales. You can donate items until Friday, December 12. D4C has a box in our lobby!

We will have our first **Intergenerational Sing Along** on December 16th during our Music Classes. We have partnered with the Geriatric Center of Excellence at Dartmouth Health to plan events throughout the year.

Holiday Break

D4C will be closed from 12/22/25-1/2/2026. We wish you a holiday season filled with love, laughter, and family traditions.

Dartmouth Child Care Staff

November 2025

| Director | Associate Director | Office Manager | Administrative Assistant |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kara Cave | Abby Plummer-LaBombard | Dawn Cote | Layla Guryel |

| Chickadee One | Chickadee Two |
|---|--|
| Ashley Richard- Lead Teacher Margaret Fraser Prajna Mohapatra | Haley Callegan – Lead Teacher Michelle Ackerman Amy Flaherty |

| Owls | Hedgehogs |
|---|--|
| Moya Stevens- Lead Teacher Maya Lopez-Bowlin Jyanna Vaughan | Emily Courtemanche- Lead Teacher Jenn Boudro Katy Deel |

| Otters | Badgers |
|--|--|
| Josie Byam-Lead Teacher Hannah Rowland Jenna Stone | Megan Widli-Lead Teacher Elizabeth Darragh Fran DelVecchio |

| Black Bears | Floating Teachers |
|--|---|
| Porsha Reynolds – Lead Teacher Ashley Young Brianna Howell | Liz Harrington Brendita Barnes Drew Pierson-Jenks |

Chickadee One

Happy Fall, D4C Parents!

We've loved getting to know our new kiddos this year. They're adjusting well to our classroom, routines, and teachers. After a few sad drop-offs at first, everyone is now coming in with smiles and settling in quickly. As you walk to the Chickadees room, you'll see our class projects displayed in the hallway. We're excited to support your children as they grow and reach new milestones!

Iris is a happy, jolly baby who always shares a smile with everyone around her. She is still breastfeeding and growing quickly! During tummy time, Iris holds her head up and enjoys exploring her surroundings and classmates. She's building her large motor skills by pushing up on her arms and strengthening her neck muscles. Iris is also becoming more mobile, rolling onto her back and reaching for toys. She has begun babbling, which is an exciting early sign of language development.

Sophia is a thoughtful child who likes to observe her surroundings before jumping in. She's now becoming more excited about seeing her friends and the toys she enjoys each day. Her large motor skills are really developing—she's beginning to roll more and is working her way toward crawling. When placed on the floor, Sophia gets on her hands and knees and rocks back and forth... almost ready to take off! She has also started babbling to her friends, teachers, and parents about her day. Watching her grow more comfortable in a new social environment and seeing her excitement with her classmates has been such a wonderful experience.

Eben is a very happy boy who is growing so quickly! He loves tickles and giggles, enjoys being sung to, and watches your face closely as you sing. He's building his core strength by sitting with support from a Boppy pillow—though he often doesn't need it and can sit on his own. Eben can now roll from his back to his stomach independently and is beginning to work toward crawling. He has also started babbling and gets especially excited when you mimic his sounds. He enjoys watching his friends and often tries to join in with whatever they're doing. It's wonderful to see him observe, learn, and make his way over to join the fun!

Ofelia is never shy about letting you know what she's thinking! She has a surprisingly deep yell for such a little one, and it's always amusing to hear that big sound come from her tiny body. Since starting with us, Ofelia has preferred rolling over crawling. At first, she rolled just to get onto her belly—now she rolls clear across the room to reach whatever she wants. She's a fast roller too: one moment she's behind you, and the next she's all the way across the room! She's beginning to get the hang of crawling and practices every day. Ofelia greets us with a wonderful, toothy smile each morning and has started exploring solid foods—watermelon is her favorite. She may be small, but she is definitely mighty!

Kaia is a quiet but very happy girl. She's babbling and beginning to learn new words with a little help from her teachers. She loves music and has started dancing along with her friends. Kaia enjoys painting and coloring, which helps her build great fine motor skills. Kaia is still crawling but now she pulls herself up to stand and cruises along tables. She has even stood on her own a few times and is very proud! Kaia is transitioning from breast milk to whole milk and is doing great. She also lets us know she's finished eating by saying "all done." She's a joyful girl who shares her smile with everyone.

Oscar loves school and greets each day with a smile. He enjoys exploring toys, playing with friends, and spending time with younger classmates under teacher guidance. He celebrated the first birthday of the school year with joy. Though he is not walking yet, he is pulling up on tables, climbing, and developing his gross motor skills. Oscar communicates when he needs help and is always happy and eager to learn. We look forward to his continued growth.

Colin is the oldest in our group. He is walking, beginning to talk, learning his colors and shapes, and has started counting, which we will continue to practice this fall. He is very caring with younger friends, often bringing a toy to someone who is upset. Colin is an excellent listener—he thinks carefully, finds what is asked of him, and proudly brings it back, enjoying praise for his efforts. Colin loves being outside, listening to music, and painting. He communicates well with teachers and enjoys helping others, showing friends how to use toys or complete puzzles, which he does very well.

This school year has been flying by, and we are enjoying every moment that we share with your beautiful children. As always if you need anything please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Ashley, Margaret, and Prajna

Chickadee One



Chickadee Two

Greetings and happy fall from Chickadees Too! We are an energetic class of wigglers and movers. Winter is on the way, and we are excited for this new season. Outside time is getting shorter so we are using every opportunity to get out and stretch our little legs. Haley, our new lead teacher, just started with Amy and Michelle, and the team is ready for the great year ahead!

Cassian has been moving and scooting his way around D4C. He enjoys playing with all the toys and loves going outside. We often find him holding himself up at the table to an empty chair. Soon, he will be ready to walk!

Ada has gone from walking to running. She loves to play. Ada is one of our biggest helpers and loves to assist her teachers in many ways. Ada loves puzzles and playing in the sandbox.

Elizabeth has been walking for a while now! Although she is teething, she is often seen with a smile on her face and a toy in hand. She loves music time, as well as helping the teachers clean up toys and teaching us new words in Spanish!

Bennett always has a smile on his face, no matter what! He is a speedy crawler but has begun to start standing with support! He loves his yogurt and is always happy to meet a new face.

Avni is starting to be able to move on her own and has started to take some small, independent steps on her own. She loves puzzles and always enjoys music time. When we go outside, she heads straight for the sandbox.

Sam is our funny little man! He loves playing with all his friends and teachers. Sam is always crawling around and checking on his friends. He most enjoys playing with any toy that makes a sound.

Lyra will always have a smile on her face. Whether she is sitting with toys or having tummy time, she is ready for anything. She is beginning to move herself in circles. She loves playing on the floor with her friends and teachers.

Colt has been moving quickly recently. He has been crawling and beginning to pull himself up and stand with support. Colt most enjoys snack time and being with his friends. He has also become very vocal and always shares his opinion with anyone he can!

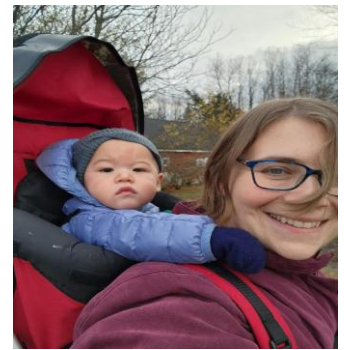
Greta is ready for anything. She enjoys tummy time on the carpet and hanging out with her friends in the multi. Greta can be seen watching and enjoying the company of her friends. Although she is small, she is mighty!

This is going to be a great year. Haley, Michelle, and Amy are excited to watch each kid grow and develop. The Chickadee Toos are ready for anything!

With the weather getting cooler and snow beginning to fall, please ensure that your child has the proper clothing and footwear in their cubbies, (i.e. hats, gloves, coats, boots, etc.). This would also be the perfect time to sort through cubby clothes to find anything that may not fit your little ones.

With love,
The Chickadee Toos

Chickadee Two



Owls

Hello, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new Owl children and their families to our classroom! We look forward to an exciting year as we watch the children learn and grow. We are already seeing lots of growth in all the children.

The first milestones in our classroom were getting to know each other and saying goodbye to parents. Everyone is comfortable with all of us now and are happy to join their teachers and friends each day. The Owls are learning many new words and are communicating well. We spent the first couple of weeks learning the names of our friends by singing and dancing. Then we finished the month of September learning about real owls and apples. October brought activities about fall, farm animals, families and Halloween. Most of the children are excited about participating in all the activities that we provide. We try to include activities that promote fine motor development, gross motor development, art, music, science, and social skills. December we will focus on Holidays and January we plan on doing snow and ice themes.

If you ever have any ideas or want to share an activity with our class, please feel free to contact us and we can arrange it.

Winter is on its way, and we plan to include many fun winter activities and lots of play (because that is how children learn)! We hope to get outside as much as possible, and we could really use your help. Please encourage your child to do as much as they can to get their outside clothes on and off.

We look forward to winter activities and we would like to share some fun activities you can do at home, over winter break or anytime: There will be lots of holiday activities coming up:

December 5th 4 -8pm-- Celebrate the Season in Hanover.

Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS)-- A Forest of lights—November and December.

December 6th-- Colburn Park, Lebanon 'Tis the Season.

December 6th-- DB Lights Enfield, NH.

December 14th (sundown)-- Dartmouth College Hanover-Lighting the Menorah.

Gift of Lights-- Drive through NH Motor Speedway, Loudon, NH.

December 12-14-- Wassail Weekend in Woodstock VT.

November 22-January 4th-- Wednesday thru Sunday evening. La Salette Shrine Enfield, NH. Features more than a million lights

January 2nd-- Ice Castle, North Woodstock, NH.

If you are interested in any of these events, feel free to google for more information.

Some ideas you can do at home: make snow angels, build a snow person, throw snowballs at a target or in a bucket, scoop snow into a bucket or dump truck, build an igloo, snow fort or snow castle. You could also paint snow with food coloring in squirt bottles (food coloring stains clothes, be careful).

We hope you all have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

The Owls,

Maya, Jyanna and Moya

Owls



HedgeHogs

The Hedgehogs have loved spending time in their new classroom and getting to explore everything the Hedgehog room has to offer. They love playing in our sensory activities and completing our special crafts to bring home and show their families. Over the last few months, the Hedgehogs have been growing in their independence and are striving to complete things themselves.

The Hedgehogs love going on our nature walks and exploring the nature around us, capturing worms and other insects we find along the way. We've had a few parades around the center to spread Halloween spirit and Kindness with hugs. We brought our rotting pumpkins to the Otter's trail camera in the woods so the deer can eat them and have enjoyed seeing the videos and pictures that Josie shares with us. In December, the Hedgehogs will walk to Hanover Terrace to sing to the residents and bring them some cookies!

Amos loves playing with construction vehicles and driving them around the room by sitting directly on top of the trucks. When Playing outside, Amos can be found in the sandbox digging with the toy excavator and using it to fill up the dump trucks.



Kaylee is our youngest hedgehog and loves playing at the art tables and completing all the crafts we have available. Kaylee's favorite song is 'Hop little bunnies' and she often brings her stuffy bunny to school to take care of.

Hedgehogs



Hallie is always looking for bugs and worms on our walks or while playing outside. She carefully scoops them up and keeps them tucked inside her palm to keep them safe from the elements or her peers. Hallie enjoys playing in the sensory buckets or at the art table when she arrives at school.

Yofi- loves driving big vehicles around the owl playground, as well as the construction vehicles on the front playground. Yofi pushes the dump truck around the yard and tries to collect 'trash' to bring to the dump from all the hedgehogs on the playground. When Yofi isn't driving, he spends time mowing the lawns with the push mowers and ensuring that every blade of grass gets cut.



Pele- enjoys driving the orange garbage truck around the classroom and filling it up with lots of little toys he finds on the floor. He often drives his truck right onto the climber where he sits at the steering wheel and pretends to drive away, calling goodbye to his peers and teachers informing them of his dissent.

Hedgehogs

Alden- Can be found digging in the sandbox and trying to fill up his bucket to dump into a sandcastle. Alden also enjoys running on the trails with his peers and climbing on the wood chip pile with them. During circle times, Alden happily suggests songs we should sing and encourages his peers to sing along with him.



Max spends a lot of time running around on the trails and playing on the climber with her peers. Her favorite part of the climber is the slide. In the fall, Max's favorite activity was running through the sprinklers on the rugby fields. When it was still butterfly season, Max was one of the biggest cheerleaders for the teachers to try and catch the butterflies.

Nell enjoys looking at books with her peers and turning the pages for them. Outside, Nell can be found in the sandbox or play kitchen; she enjoys filling buckets with sand to pretend to cook with or dumping them out into castles. Nell also spends a good amount of time caring for babies and making them food in the classroom.





Arwen enjoys completing art projects with her Dad to start her days off in Hedgehogs. She often has her baby doll from home that she takes care of with her peers by cooking foods in the play kitchen or placing them in the crib for a rest. Arwen's favorite color is orange.

Artie-is our oldest Hedgehog and he enjoys looking for butterflies on our Hedgehog walks and cooking in the play kitchen. One of Artie's favorite games to play out front is Roofball- where a teacher tosses a ball up on the roof for the kids to watch roll down and try to catch.



Morgan can often be found playing in the kitchen and cooking food for his peers and teachers. Morgan enjoys playing with a ball and hitting it with a bat or throwing it across the room to his peers. Morgan loves riding bikes and happily tells us about how he rides his bike at home with his family.

Yara- can be found near the crib, caring for all the babies and ensuring they are covered up for their naps. She also spends time in the play kitchen, pretending to cook dinners for her peers. Outside, Yara enjoys playing in the sandbox to fill up a bucket before dumping it all out and repeating her little game. Yara loves playing on the climber and seeing how fast she can zip down the slide.



Otters

Welcome to the Otter Room Newsletter! We are so thrilled to have such a wonderful group of 2–3-year-olds this year. Our Otters bring kindness, happiness, curiosity, and plenty of laughter into the classroom each day, and we are excited to share what we've been up to so far!

This year's themes have included:

- All About Me
- Apples
- Fair Season
- Harvest on the Farm
- Fall Foliage
- Pumpkins
- Fire Safety
- Halloween
- Family
- Squirrels
- Kindness & Happiness
- Cooking

One of the highlights of our year so far—a day the Otters still talk about often—was our Muddy Pig Day during “On the Farm” week. This special activity is always a favorite! We transformed the classroom by padding the floors with gym mats and covering everything with paper for easy cleanup. Then came the best part: we poured about half a gallon of brown “mud” (paint) onto the floor and invited the children to use their whole bodies to explore, paint, slide, and roll.

Before the fun began, we talked about why pigs cover themselves in mud—because they can't put on sunscreen like we can! We also tied in early math concepts by noticing the “ratios” of mud on their bodies. The most popular challenge, of course, was seeing who could become the *muddiest pig of all...* and many of our Otters proudly reached 100% mud coverage!

Now, with winter quietly creeping in, the children are buzzing with excitement for new seasonal adventures. The Otters can't wait to enjoy skiing, sledding, and building snow forts outside, along with many other fun winter activities that keep them active and engaged throughout the season.

Growing Up in the Otter Room

In this classroom, we see some major developmental leaps between the ages of two and three. Many people refer to this age as the “terrible twos,” but that couldn't be more *wrong*. There's truly no such thing!

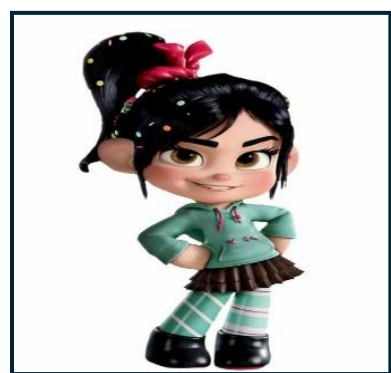
Around here, we use a much more accurate—and much more endearing—term: the threenager. This describes the big burst of independence children build as they get older. One day, they want and need help with everyday tasks... and then, suddenly, they don't want your help anymore, even if they *do* still need it. At other times, they don't need your help at all, but they really *want* the comfort of being helped.

There's a fine line between “I need help,” “I don't need help,” and “I want help even though I can do it myself.” These moments are all part of growing, learning, and becoming more confident. In the Otter Room, we support them through each of these stages with patience, guidance, and plenty of encouragement.

We are so proud of everything our Otters have accomplished already this year, and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Now... let's see what our otters have been up to!

Otters



Badgers

The first months with our Badger group have passed quickly, and we are delighted with how smoothly the year began. The children have adjusted well to classroom routines, developed new friendships, and welcomed a new classmate with warmth and excitement.

This fall was full of discovery as the Badgers learned all about the changing season. The children observed colorful, crunchy leaves, talked about the cooler weather, and tasted and explored different kinds of apples. One of our favorite fall activities was making mini apple pies, giving the children a chance to mix, measure, and enjoy a special treat they created themselves. We also loved our fall scavenger hunt, where the children searched outdoors for signs of the season and collecting and sharing their discoveries.

Spooky Fairytales Week sparked so much imagination and creativity, we spent every circle time “sitting around a campfire”, telling spooky stories with flashlights. The Badgers even created their own “Badger Tales,” complete with magical characters and adventure, and acted them out with confidence. It was a week full of storytelling, costumes, and dramatic play.

Our Dinosaur Week was another huge highlight of the season. The children explored how big or small different dinosaurs might have been, comparing their sizes to their own bodies and started to build an understanding of measurement and scale. During our weekly Badger walk, the children pretended to be various dinosaurs, to be T-Rexes, moving slowly like giant herbivores, and stretching tall like long-necked creatures from long ago.

As we wrap up November, we are excited for our special cooking week. The children will prepare, taste, and share delicious foods they help make. Cooking offers wonderful opportunities to practice math skills, sensory exploration, cooperation, and independence.

We are delighted to have our Badger families join us for our celebration of thankfulness this December. This special gathering will include homemade treats, seasonal decorations the children have been working hard on, and conversations about the many things we are thankful for. The Badgers have already begun preparing for this event, and we can't wait to share this warm celebration with our families!

Beginning in December, we will introduce new learning goals and exciting hands-on themes. We will begin focusing more intentionally on ABCs, letter recognition, and supporting the children as they practice spelling and writing their names. We will also be incorporating sign language into our learning. Each week, the children will learn a new word to sign, helping them build communication skills, confidence, and awareness of different ways people express themselves. All these developing skills will be woven into playful, engaging, and developmentally appropriate activities throughout the month, allowing the children to learn through movement, exploration and creativity.

We will start the winter season with our Arctic Animals theme. The children will learn about animals that live in cold climates, discover how these animals survive, and even design and build homes or habitats for different Arctic creatures.

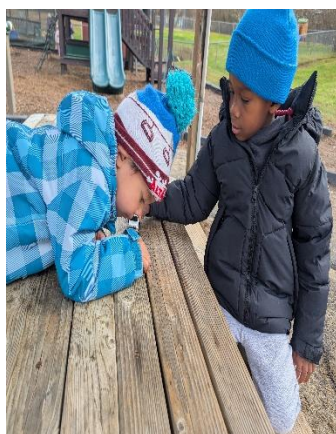
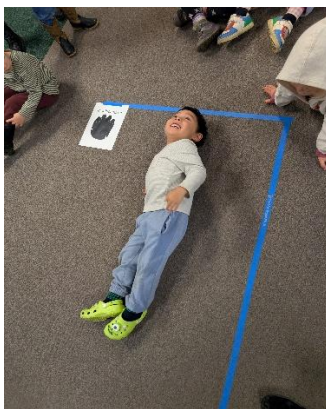
Later in the month, we'll explore how the mail system works. The children will learn about stamps, envelopes, and sorting, and will send out their own letters to our animal pen pals. With luck, we may receive a letter back!

We will wrap up December by exploring different holidays celebrated around the world. Through stories, crafts, and music, we will celebrate the traditions that make this season special. Our final project of the month will be creating our very own gingerbread houses.

We are incredibly proud of how much the Badgers have grown this fall! Their curiosity and enthusiasm brighten our classroom every day. As we move into winter, we are excited to continue exploring, learning, and building wonderful memories together.

The Badger Team: Megan, Elizabeth, Fran

Badgers



Black Bears

“Our Little Reporters: Share Their Favorites!”

Our Black Bears have been busy all summer and fall, choosing their favorite activities ranging from outdoor play, art projects, movement, sensory exploration, science/math, story times, field trips, and more. After choosing their favorite activity, they also shared why their activity was their favorite!



Activity: **Dressing Up Bears!**

Black Bear: August

Quote: “It was funny putting clothes on the bears!”

Teacher’s Note: During practical skills week, the Black Bears worked on skills ranging from cleaning to cooking, dressing up independently, and more. In this activity, the Black Bears worked their hardest, turning clothes inside out and putting clothes on bears, working on their fine motor and resilience skills!



Activity: **Making Our Class Sunshine Expectations Poster!**

Black Bear: Aiden

Quote: “ I like how pretty our class sunshine is!”

Teacher’s Note: The Black Bears entered their new classroom as a Black Bear in late August, and their third week theme was Falling into Your New Classroom. One day of the week, the Black Bears' class had Sunshine Expectations posters. Where each friend shared something they can do to keep the classroom safe, fun, and loving, Aiden promised to have safe hands.



Activity: **Disney Symphony Orchestra Dance Party!**

Black Bear: Sunny

Quote: “I loved dancing to music and drinking hot chocolate!”

Teacher’s Note: When the Black Bears completed their first whole month as Black Bears, they had a big celebration where they got to dress up as Disney characters and dance under the northern lights to their favorite music, with snacks, friends, and family.



Activity: **Friendship Parachute Game!**

Black Bear: Tristan

Quote: "I got to run under the parachute really fast!"

Teacher's Note: During Friendship Week, the Black Bears played a fun gross-motor and social-emotional game in which they shared something kind about another friend while having the opportunity to run under the parachute. Others on the outside worked hard to keep the parachute up so the friend could have fun. In our classroom, we say that when we do kind things, we can have fun!



Activity: **Visiting the Fire Station!**

Black Bear: Alex

Quote: "I got to see a ladder truck and climb into a tanker truck!"

Teacher's Note: In November, during community helpers week, the Black Bears had the opportunity to visit the fire station! We were able to explore inside an ambulance truck and a tanker truck! Also, learning how firefighters keep us safe and not to be scared of them when they are in full gear and masks.



Activity: **Visiting the Police Station!**

Black Bear: Violet

Quote: "They were nice, and the car made funny sounds!"

Teacher's Note: During our community helpers week, the Black Bears walked to the police Station to learn about what police officers and detectives do for work. We got to see into the camera room, conference room, and inside a police officer's cruiser. The Black Bears learned all the different ways police officers can keep us safe.



Activity: **Planting Spring Bulbs!**

Black Bear: Ijun

Quote: "I like playing in the dirt and looking for worms!"

Teacher's Note: As part of our Farmers Theme Week, we included a gardening activity that helped the Black Bears stay connected with the environment, observe the changing seasons, and learn about the crops and flowers typically planted during harvest time. The Black Bears got super dirty in the garden as they cleaned out the raised beds, dug holes in the soil, and planted spring bulbs.



Activity: **Making Pumpkin Volcanoes!**

Black Bear: Callen

Quote: "I like getting gross!"

Teacher's Note: During pumpkin week, the Black Bears engaged in many different activities, learning, exploring, cooking, tasting, and playing with pumpkins. One day, the Black Bears participated in a fun science experiment where they made a volcano out of carved pumpkins, learning cause and effect with mixed solutions such as vinegar and baking soda, a simple chemical reaction for our little spooky scientist!



Activity: **Going on Nature Walks!**

Black Bear: Zubin

Quote: "I loved walking in the woods and running in the fields!"

Every Monday, the Black Bears adventure into the woods or take a community walk around town, working on their safety skills and exploring the nature around us. Sometimes, playing fun gross motor games (e.g., Where's Mr.Fox?), listening for birds, and/or identifying different wildlife/plants!

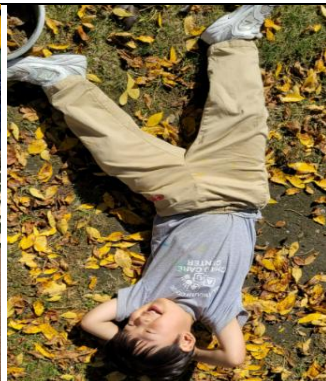


Activity: **Disney Symphony Orchestra Dance Party!**

Black Bear: Jackson

Quote: "I loved dressing up and finding gems!"

Teacher's Note: When the Black Bears completed their first whole month as Black Bears, they had a big celebration where they got to dress up as Disney characters and dance under the northern lights to their favorite music, with snacks, friends, and family.



Activity: **Mummy Race!**

Black Bear: Ian

Quote: "I looked silly!"

Teacher's Note: During Spooky Week, the Black Bears had an exciting Mummy Race! They wrapped each other in toilet paper, ran around, and tore it off. This activity encouraged teamwork and gross motor skills as the Black Bears embraced the spooky spirit of the week.



Activity: **Mummy Race!**

Black Bear: Tesfay

Quote: "It was weird and funny being wrapped up in toilet paper!"

Teacher's Note: During Spooky Week, the Black Bears had an exciting Mummy Race! They wrapped each other in toilet paper, ran around, and tore it off. This activity encouraged teamwork and gross motor skills as the Black Bears embraced the spooky spirit of the week.



Activity: **Designing Football Jerseys!**

Black Bear: Bryson

Quote: "I love football!"

Teacher's Note: The Bears had a fun-filled week centered entirely around fall sports. One day was focused on Football. They started the morning by designing and coloring their own football jerseys, choosing colors, numbers, and decorations that showcased their personalities and team spirit. Later, they practiced throwing and catching a football, working together in pairs and cheering each other on.



Activity: **Disney Symphony Orchestra Dance Party!**

Black Bear: Alaina

Quote: "I got to dress up as a princess!"

Teacher's Note: When the Black Bears completed their first whole month as Black Bears, they had a big celebration where they got to dress up as Disney characters and dance under the northern lights to their favorite music, with snacks, friends, and family.



Activity: **Making Friendship Oat Balls!**

Black Bear: Caleb

Quote: "It was super yummy!"

Teacher's Note: During Friendship Week, the Black Bears made Friendship Balls, with each ingredient representing qualities that make a great friendship, such as kindness, sharing, listening, and more. They poured, mixed, and enjoyed their delicious treat together.



Activity: **Making Caramel Apple Smoothies!**

Black Bear: Miriam

Quote:

Teacher's Note: During our Wonders of September theme, the Black Bears explored the changing season and learned about the warm, comforting spices of fall. To celebrate the new season, the Black Bears made delicious apple caramel smoothies. They practiced important food-prep skills by peeling, cutting, and blending fresh apples into a sweet autumn treat.



Activity: **Creating Emotion Monsters!**

Black Bear: Zola

Quote: "Spreading paint and making silly faces was fun!"

Teacher's Note: During Feelings Week, the Black Bears created their very own Emotion Monsters using paint and a variety of silly face parts. The Black Bears released a lot of energy by smearing paint across their papers, then added mismatched eyes, eyebrows, and expressive mouths to create a unique monster that represents different emotions. Through this creative process, the Black Bears practiced identifying feelings and exploring how facial expressions can show emotions in fun and imaginative ways.



That concludes the end of our Black Bear summer and fall column. Please feel free to peek into our classroom for great views, fun celebrations, and activities.