



# Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter July 2025

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## **Celebrating The Week of a young Child**

We had a lot of fun this spring at D4C celebrating the week of a young child. Every day we picked a theme to promote fun, learning, and the growth of young minds. We had Monday Music, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday. Each class took part in hands-on activities and created colorful posters to highlight their experiences. It was a week full of learning, creativity, and smiles! Below is an example of the Otter posters.



## From the Director: Kara Cave

Joining D4C in early April was such an enjoyable experience. It was great to meet all the families at the meet and greet, during drop off, and pick up. Everyone was so welcoming! My favorite part was meeting all the children from the youngest in the infant room to children excited for kindergarten. Recently my puppy, Chloe, has been joining me at work. It has been fun to watch some of our youngest children get the courage to come and say “Hi” in the morning or throughout the day with their teacher. Chloe is a seven-month-old Goldendoodle who gets excited when she hears the movement and laughter throughout the center.

We celebrated Teacher appreciation week and spoiled our teachers thanks to your wonderful donations. We really appreciate it!!! They had back massages, breakfast, lunch, cookies, candy, floaties with drinks, and trail mix. With such variety, all the teachers found something they loved. The D4C teachers also became part of the Union this spring which was exciting for all.

We had lots of rain this spring which made it fun to jump in the puddles and get dirty! As the rain cleared up, we brought out water play activities which were loved by all. Classrooms have been able to get out and walk to the creek or local trails. We measured the ground daily to see when we could open our climbing structure and put up the swings. Everyone was so excited when the day arrived, and they could finally climb and swing. The children did a great job at taking turns and improving their leg pumping skills.

Our Black Bears graduated! This was a happy day for all. We had caps and gowns, the children picked their favorite art picture to share, took pictures, and had an ice cream party. We wish everyone the best when they go to kindergarten, but we are fortunate to still have them for the summer.

We have ordered Tee Shirts for all the teachers and children. Every classroom has its own assigned color. This will be great when taking group pictures, walking the trails, and going to the creek. We will be washing the tee shirts and keeping them at the center. Families had the option to order tee shirts for themselves! A huge shout out to Dawn for creating our tee shirt design.

My fondest memories growing up were of summer time! It was a time to feel free, experience new things, go on adventures, run barefoot, and eat ice cream. Idea's from Naeyc to encourage learning and development:

- **Read aloud:** Select books about summer fun and engage children in discussions about the stories.
- **Explore nature:** Turn walks into nature walks, observing plants, animals, and weather.
- **Visit museums and libraries:** Take advantage of local attractions to spark curiosity and learning.
- **Create mini-learning centers:** Set up themed boxes with materials to encourage hands-on exploration.
- **Embrace summer learning programs:** Participate in organized activities that focus on specific skills or subjects.
- **Use technology to enhance learning:** Explore educational apps or websites that align with children's interests.
- **Foster hands-on learning:** Provide opportunities for building, creating, and experimenting with different materials.



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



As the sun shines longer and the air grows warmer, our center comes alive with the unmistakable scents of summer. The sweet tang of sunscreen, the earthy aroma of soil from the gardens, the smell of fresh-cut grass drifting through open windows — all these smells signal something special: the joyful, messy, and sometimes emotional season of growth and transition.

Summer at D4C is a symphony of sensations, but it is also a time of important developmental milestones. This is the season when many of our children prepare to move into new classrooms, meet new teachers, and explore new spaces designed to support their next stage of learning.

These transitions can bring a mix of excitement and uncertainty — not only for the children, but for their families and even for us as educators. We take this responsibility seriously, ensuring that each child is supported with intention and care. Visits to their new classroom, stories that introduce new teachers, and routines that provide consistency all help children feel confident about the changes ahead.

Adding to the fun of the season is one of our favorite summer traditions: the Fourth of July Bike Parade! Children decorated their bikes, trikes, and wagons in red, white, and blue. Families joined us for a festive ride around the center. It's a colorful celebration of creativity, independence, and community — and always a highlight of our summer.

As we walk through the hallways this month, we hear laughter from the toddlers discovering a sprinkler for the first time, the quiet concentration of preschoolers building elaborate forts in the shade, and the gentle reassurances of teachers guiding children through new routines. These small but powerful moments remind us that growth is not just academic — it's emotional, social, and sensory.

We are grateful to witness the many ways your children bloom with each passing season. Whether your child is moving on to a new classroom or staying with familiar faces for a little longer, we are honored to be part of their journey. Thank you for trusting us with their care and learning — and for letting us share in the magic of summer.

Wishing you a season filled with sunshine, curiosity, and the comforting smell of sunscreen on warm little cheeks.

Warmly,

**Abby Plummer-LaBombard**

## Announcements:

### Summer Holidays

July 4<sup>th</sup>

Labor Day – September 1st

The first day of the fall program will be August 27th.

D4C will be closed on August 25<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers will be busy participating in professional development and preparing their classrooms for the fall.

We will have a back to school social on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals will be performing. More information to follow.

We installed two cameras at D4C. They are located by the main entrance and the entrance by the Black Bear Classroom. This is an added security measure to ensure the safety of our center.

### Office Updates:

Dawn will be reaching out mid-July to get updated financial information.

Layla will be reaching out mid-July for you to review your registration forms and initial if all the information is correct.

**Dartmouth Child Care Staff  
Summer 2025**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Associate Director</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
Kara Cave	Abby Plummer-LaBombard	Dawn Cote	Layla Guryel

<b>Chickadee One</b>	<b>Chickadee Two</b>
Ashley Richard- Lead Teacher Margaret Fraser Prajna Mohapatra	Teresa Hahn – Lead Teacher Michelle Ackerman Amy Flaherty

<b>Owls</b>	<b>Hedgehogs</b>
Moya Stevens- Lead Teacher (on leave) Maya Lopez-Bowlin Jyanna Vaughan	Emily Courtemanche- Lead Teacher Jenn Boudro Miranda Compton

<b>Otters</b>	<b>Badgers</b>
Josie Byam-Lead Teacher Hannah Rowland	Megan Widli-Lead Teacher Elizabeth Darragh

<b>Black Bears</b>	<b>Floating Teachers</b>
Porsha Reynolds – Lead Teacher Ashley Young Kira Robinson (on leave)	Liz Harrington Brendita Barnes Drew Pierson-Jenks



## Chickadee One

The Chickadees are all very excited now that summer has arrived! During the spring and end of winter, we saw them all grow and learn so much! Our class loved going down the hill on the playground with their teachers in the sled while the snow was still on the ground. The infants worked their bodies differently and harder while they crawled through the snow in their big bulky suits. The toddler friends certainly had their share of working hard to make their way up the hill to sled back down.

As the weather began to change and we spent more time outside, we explored more of the playground. We did a spring sensory bin, learned about different kinds of bugs, had some birthdays, and of course, our favorite thing to do in Chick 1, LOTS OF DANCING! In June, we had some children move on and we welcomed Ofelia to our class!

During the summer months, we will be spending lots of time outside and doing water play. We will also facilitate a soft transition of the children, moving on to other classrooms by visiting the other rooms with a few children at a time with and then a visit without one of the Chickadee teachers. This can be an exciting time but can trigger many emotions for children. Please reach out to us if you have questions or concerns as we work through this with your children.

Some snippets of each child:

Kaylee loves to talk about “beetle-bugs” with her friends during mealtimes which was prompted by another friend’s interests. She also gives so many hugs to her friends and teachers! Her curiosity and energy promote so much of the new skills she has mastered.

Alden has exploded with his vocabulary and can say many two-word sentences. He loves to tell Alexa to play music so he can dance (even though Alexa does not listen unless the teachers tell her to play). He is often found in cars or trucks outside.

Esther has really exploded with her communication! She may be petite, but she knows what she wants and will definitely tell you. She spends a lot of time “taking care” of baby dolls and “inspecting” the playground when we are outside.

Yunis has only been with us for a short period of time, but we have seen so much growth in all areas of development! He is a laid-back soul and immediately bonded with his friends and teachers in the Chickadee class...it is as if he was with us the entire year! He really enjoys listening to “Baby Shark” and asks for it every day!

Hallie has such a spunky personality with so much enthusiasm! Her language has really exploded, and she can tell her friends when it’s “Hallie’s turn” if they want the same toy she is playing with. She also spends much of her day “taking care” of baby dolls and even copies how her teachers help her younger friends go to sleep by rocking them or giving them a gentle bounce while making the “shh” sound.

Elias is a tiny explorer and so affectionate! He spends a lot of time wandering around the classroom and playground while holding his little finger near his face and saying “hmmmmmm...” Our favorite phrase that he says is “hiiii...” while giving us the gentlest hugs. He can count to two and name many objects in books!

Yaralyn spends a lot of time driving cars and trucks on the playground. She also loves to read books in the multi and dance with her friends. She has such a fun personality with some sass to accentuate it. She has gained so many words and grown so much.

Wesley has such a big, infectious personality! He went from being a small infant to a toddler who now can climb on the climber all by himself, says so many words and crab crawl so fast to keep up with our older friends. He loves to climb in and out of the sandbox and go down the slides.

Ofelia recently joined our class, and she is such a sweet delight! She loves smiling at her teachers and peers, rolling from side-to-side and exploring infant-grabby toys.

## Chickadee One Pictures









## Chickadee Two

Greetings from Chickadee Too. Summer is here and we are enjoying fun in the sun. We have been able to get muddy in the Spring puddles and enjoy outside water and sprinkler play in the hot sun. It is so nice to get all the kids outside together.

Ada just turned one. She is walking now and is so confident in her movement. She has developed her voice and loves to babble away. She is a great climber and likes getting into and out of vehicles. She enjoys digging in the sand and can often be found in the sandbox.

Emilia starts her day charming the Black Bears while dropping off Walter. She has become very independent in her thinking and her actions and wants to do things by herself. She loves all the climbers/slides. She really enjoys playing in the sandbox. She often wants to cuddle up with a teacher and a book.

Imogen lights up the room with her big smile, although she often wears her serious 'I am checking you out' face. She also enjoys climbing up on anything she can. She used to be quiet but now is showing us her amazing vocabulary.

William loves to play. He explores all the toy options and outside activities, moving from one place to another until he has played with nearly everything. He enjoys music and dancing. He loves books to be read to him or to look at by himself.

Sophie is our soft spoken one. She amazes us daily with her abundant vocabulary. She loves anything to do with drawing or painting and has a lengthy attention span for these activities. Splashing in puddles was one of her favorite Spring pastimes. She enjoys being outside and exploring all the toys and equipment available to her.

Nell is an extremely busy girl. She spends lots of time running from toy to toy or just running for the fun of it. She enjoys playing with the baby dolls, wrapping them up and rocking them while shushing them. She loves to be read to; her current favorite is 'Peek A Who.' Every time music comes on, she stops what she is doing to bust out her dance moves.

Pele loves vehicles of all shapes and sizes. He likes to experiment with different surfaces to drive them on and how many he can drive at once, even if that means piling the littler ones into the back of the big ones. He talks so well now and will often share what he has been up to outside of school. He really enjoys outside time in the sand, in water and of course driving the cars.

Yofi loves to make us laugh, both with his actions and his words. He keeps a running narrative of what he is doing throughout the day. He loves big body play and making a nest of cushions to curl up in. He also loves to be outside driving and digging and splashing but always takes some time to sit in the gazebo and enjoy some books. He will read them to himself but is happy when we sit and read with him.

This has been a fun year getting to know this group and experience all the growth that happens in this age group. It has been wonderful to work with a full team this year, and a pleasure to have Amy's calming presence in our room.

We are beginning the process of transitioning to sleeping on naps mats in anticipation of the fall move up. The three future Hedgehogs are doing well on the mats and the future Owls will begin the transition soon. This is a good time for parents and children to be introduced to their new classrooms and teachers to ensure a smooth transition in August.

As the weather changes, please make sure your child has appropriate footwear and clothing (including hats) in their cubbies. This would be a good time to sort through clothing and take-home items that are intended for cold weather or that no longer fit.

## Chickadee Two Pictures





## Owls

Wow, the time gone past quickly! A year ago, your little baby had just learned how to crawl and talk, now they call over to their friends, ask for specific books to read or run so fast that you do not know how you will catch up!

Soon these Owls will be joining their new rooms, and we sure will miss them, but are so proud of the accomplishments that they have made! As discussed at conferences, we always find that visits to their new rooms to be beneficial. Divided by age, a little more than half of them will go to Otters and the rest to Hedgehogs! Some practices we have seen help with transitions (done all at once, or one at a time):

- Enter through the far “Black Bear Entrance,” where you may also enter using your Dartmouth ID
- Walk past the rooms
- Mention which room they will be in
- Peek through the green house windows into their room
- Stand at the threshold
- Greet their new teachers
- Wash hands – after doing it all year in the Owl bathroom, remind them to CATCH the soap if they have not learned this already!!
- Play at the activities set out
- Drop them off there (sign in in Owl Room, please!!)

### **Things we will gradually be doing throughout the summer.**

- Going down to visit/play in their new room
- Eating lunch in their new room
- Taking a nap there
- Spending a day there
- Learning how to clean up (many have this down!)
- Keeping table activities at tables
- Learning about having your own table space
- Eating without bibs
- Using the potty (dependent on child, we still go based off their cues and find it best not to pressure them into this in this room)
- Playing in their new playground (done in the last couple of months or so, since they are physically quite small and need a lot of help AND it is SOOO exciting to go over there!!!)

We have seen much success with starting the transition early. Owls often can find it a very daunting experience and may never be interested in going through these transitions. Even if this is the case, we have seen those Owls transition well, so do not lose heart! Feel free to continue asking, despite their lack of interest in it. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns about their transition. Being an Owl is fun, so we get why this transition can be hard! 😊

Best,

The Owl Team

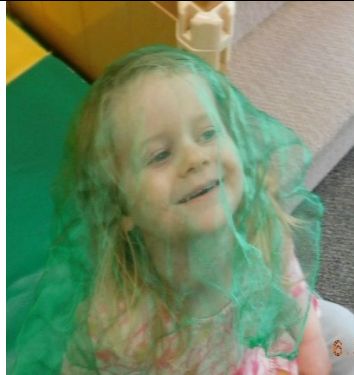


## Owl Pictures

Madison loves to snuggle with her teachers, make sandcastles, and care for her baby dolls!



Lulu loves to climb, care for baby dolls, and laughs so hard when she rolls down the hill.



Eloise loves to sing, snuggle with her Baby, and play with the leaf blower!



Margot asks all the “why” questions, loves all the tabletop activities, and go on the swings!



Artie enjoys finding that special toy and playing with it all day, giving hugs to his teachers, and big body play!



Dorian loves Spider-man, spiders and telling us stories!



Arwen loves to sing, snuggle with her teachers, and read books!



Morgan loves to race his friends, help with the yard work and throw and catch balls!



Theo Loves his family, match outfits with his sister, and be silly with his friends!



Maxi loves to help her friends, climb on the climber, and jump in puddles!



Juniper loves Moana, cooking in the kitchen, and doing all the art projects!



## Hedgehogs

The Hedgehogs are having a wonderful start to Summer! They planted their vegetable garden on the top of the Owl Playground and spent time watering the plants and weeding it out daily. The Hedgehogs said 'Goodbye' to two of our Hedgehogs, Oscar had his last day on June 6<sup>th</sup> for the Summer; and Ivy had her last day on June 27<sup>th</sup>, she will be transferring over to her mom's center in the fall. The Hedgehogs were enjoying the heat wave by playing in the kiddie pool and splashing around the front playground. They enjoy playing a game where they become sprayed before screaming and running away! The Hedgehogs jam out to their new favorite song 'Bop Bop Dinosaur' by Jim Cosgrove. Hedgehogs are looking forward to the rest of our Birthday celebrations! We had our first few Hedgehogs turn three and now the rest are excited to help plan their special days with a special treat!



Ivy enjoys playing in the play kitchen with her peers and cooking them pretend meals. Ivy enjoys participating in Music with Brooke and experimenting with all her different instruments she brings each time. Ivy had her last day as a Hedgehog on June 27<sup>th</sup>, she will be going to her mom's school in Lyme this fall, and she will be missed greatly! To celebrate, we had a parade, Hedgehogs cookies (brought in by Ivy and her family), wore pretty things and party hats, or minnie and mickey mouse themed attire!



Emilio enjoys playing imaginative games with his friends and pretending to be a family; lots of times they will play in the kitchen together, gathered around the play table waiting for their dinner. Emilio also likes to play on the slides and climbers. When we go outside in the afternoons, Emilio spends a lot of time playing in the sandbox and using the construction vehicles to move piles of sand from one side of the box to the other. Emilio also enjoys sitting on the couch with his peers and listening to stories all together!







Laila loves playing on the climber and zipping down the slide with her friends! She also enjoys running around with them on the playgrounds and trails and pretending there is a monster chasing after them all. Laila enjoys playing with her friends in the playhouse and cooking for them in the kitchen by taking everyone's order and then returning with their prepared food. Laila also enjoys dancing to the 'pool music' with her friends when we are out on the front playground and listening to music during water play.

## Hedgehog Pictures

	<p>Bash just turned three on June 23rd! He loves playing on the Owl Playground and using the toy hedge trimmers to cut down trees (and the gazebo) to 'clean up the yard.' Bash also enjoys distinguishing certain letters that his peers' names start with; during circle activities, Bash happily shouts out all the recognizable letters and tells us who starts with each one!</p>
	<p>Rhett enjoys pretending to vacuum our classroom and tidying up after the Hedgehogs by using an old washcloth to wipe down classroom surfaces. When taking a break from his cleaning tasks, Rhett enjoys playing on the climber and pretending to drive to his peers' houses for playdates. Rhett also plays the toy guitars and copies many songs from Music with Brooke, one of his favorites to sing aloud is the 'Hello Song' Brook sings with the classrooms.</p>
	<p>Pippa likes to play 'teacher' and gathers her friends around and pretends to lead a circle activity with them all; she reads a story or sings a song with them before calling each one individually to go wash their hands for a snack. Pippa also loves playing on the swings and showing her friends and teachers how she pumps her legs to go faster and higher up in the air!</p>
	<p>Cecilia brings books from home to share with her friends and read together on the couch. Ceci also enjoys playing in the sensory bins and pouring from one container into another. Ceci also likes to play dress up and completely changes her appearance by adding a tutu, clip-clop shoes, and a fancy handbag, before walking off and" heading to the store."</p>
	<p>Thiago enjoys playing in the kiddie pool by splashing around and watching the hose spray in a" rainbow" for him to run underneath. Thiago also enjoys playing Roofball with his peers by throwing a ball up on the roof to watch it roll back down to them. Thiago also keeps a good eye on the tadpoles in our classroom to observe any changes that might occur during the day.</p>



	<p>Teddy was our first Hedgehog to turn three this summer and has been promoted to Big Brother! Teddy fondly tells us stories about his little sister Greta and picks wildflowers for her and his dad when we go walking on the trails. Teddy enjoyed the heat wave by splashing in the kiddie pool and playing with his friends in the sprinkler.</p>
	<p>Oscar had his last day in Hedgehogs on June 6<sup>th</sup> but recently stopped in to visit his Hedgehog friends earlier this week! Oscar is spending most of his summer with family and friends in New York. Before his departure, Oscar spent lots of time in the sandbox with dump trucks and other construction vehicles so he could fill them with sand and drive them around the front playground.</p>
	<p>Silas was promoted to big brother earlier this year and enjoys sharing the 'big brother' title with some of his peers now! Silas loves splashing in the kiddie pools with his friends and dancing around to the 'pool music.'</p> <p>Silas also enjoys watering the Hedgehog Garden and ensuring that each plant gets enough water.</p>
	<p>Sarah enjoys completing art projects during the morning activities and taking her time to fully fill up her artwork with glue or paint. Sarah spends lots of time creating multiple projects to bring home for each family member, including her dog, Fern. Sarah enjoys caring for the Hedgehog Garden and playing with her friends as they haul watering cans up the hill to their plants before racing back down to see who was the fastest.</p>



## Otters

We are so excited to finish out the school year and dive into our summer adventures! While this season brings lots of sunshine, water play, and fun memories, it is also bittersweet as we say goodbye to some of the amazing kiddos, we have built such strong connections with. Watching them move on to their new classrooms is tough—but we are also incredibly proud of them!

We have some very excited Otters who are ready for their next adventure:

- Some will be moving up to the **Badger Room** with Megan.
- Others will be heading to the **Black Bear Room** with Porsha and Ashley.

These Otters have been *busy* since our last newsletter! Here is a look at the themes we have explored together:

- **November:** Hibernation, Turkeys, Nutrition, Family
- **December:** Winter Wonderland, Gingerbread, Holidays
- **January:** Arctic Animals, Snowmen, Snow, Winter Snacks
- **February:** Post Office, Friendship, Transportation, Dental Health (We also said goodbye to Josie as she left to welcome baby Colt!)
- **March:** Dr. Seuss, Cooking, Construction, Trains
- **April:** Bugs, Spring, Migration, Earth Day, Gardening
- **May:** Woodland Animals, Dinosaurs, Community Helpers, Bees
- **June:** Space, Pond Life, Sea Animals, Veterinary, Camping

For **July**, our curriculum shifts into a more play-based model with exciting daily activities and scheduled water play to keep things cool and fun!

**Meet our otters!**

CALLEN	CHARLOTTE	DESMOND	ETHAN
C – Caring A – Adventurous L – Loving L – Loyal E – Encouraging N – Nice	C – Creative H – Helpful A – Appreciative R – Respectful L – Loving O – Optimistic T – Thoughtful T – Trustworthy E – Energetic	D – Determined E – Encouraging S – Strong M – Mindful O – Outgoing N – Nice D – Dependable	E – Empathetic T – Thoughtful H – Helpful A – Awesome N – Nurturing

<b>Freddie</b> <b>F</b> – Friendly <b>R</b> – Respectful <b>E</b> – Expressive <b>D</b> – Delightful <b>D</b> – Dependable <b>I</b> – Imaginative <b>E</b> – Encouraging	<b>LOGAN</b> <b>L</b> – Loving <b>O</b> – Open-hearted <b>G</b> – Gentle <b>A</b> – Adventurous <b>N</b> – Nice	<b>OTTO</b> <b>O</b> – Optimistic <b>T</b> – Trusting <b>T</b> – Thoughtful <b>O</b> – Original	<b>RIVER</b> <b>R</b> – Respectful <b>I</b> – Imaginative <b>V</b> – Vibrant <b>E</b> – Entertaining <b>R</b> – Radiant
<b>TESFAY</b> <b>T</b> – Thoughtful <b>E</b> – Encouraging <b>S</b> – Strong <b>F</b> – Friendly <b>A</b> – Appreciative <b>Y</b> – Yare	<b>SIMON</b> <b>S</b> – Supportive <b>I</b> – Imaginative <b>M</b> – Mindful <b>O</b> – Outgoing <b>N</b> – Nice	<b>SIBYL</b> <b>S</b> – Sweet <b>I</b> – Intelligent <b>B</b> – Brave <b>Y</b> – Yeomanly <b>L</b> – Loving	<b>VERA</b> <b>V</b> – Vibrant <b>E</b> – Empathetic <b>R</b> – Reliable <b>A</b> – Affectionate
<b>VIOLET</b> <b>V</b> – Valuable <b>I</b> – Inspiring <b>O</b> – Observant <b>L</b> – Loving <b>E</b> – Energetic <b>T</b> – Tender-hearted			

If your child is joining the Otter Room soon—**welcome!** Please feel free to pop in, say hello, and stay a while. We love building strong connections with both kiddos and families.

Here’s to a fun, sunny, splash-filled summer!

— The Otter Room Team 🌞🍷💧

## Otter Pictures





## Badgers

Summer is here, and the Badgers are making the most of their final months in the Badger Room! As we enjoy the sunshine and warm weather, we are also beginning the exciting transition into the Black Bear Room. Over the next few months, we will focus on supporting each child's growth—socially, emotionally, and academically—as they prepare for their next big step.

Lately, we have been hard at work on our writing skills. The Badgers have been practicing writing their names on just about everything they create, from artwork to activity sheets—and we are so proud to see how confident and capable they have become. We have a room full of emerging writers!

This past quarter has also been packed with incredible learning themes. We explored what it means to be a community and how we can help each other every day. We took a deep dive into the natural world, learning about plants, animals, and weather. One of our favorite journeys was a “trip around the world,” where we discovered different cultures through food, language, music, animals, and transportation. It sparked so many meaningful conversations and helped build curiosity about the world around us.

The Badgers have also been showing off their creativity through art. One of the most exciting parts has been creating props and decorations for our dramatic play area. We love following the children's interests and giving them a voice in how we shape our classroom spaces. Whether it is a pretend flower Market, a Circus, or a building center, the dramatic play area becomes a reflection of their ideas and imagination.

This summer, the Badgers will be making the most of the beautiful weather with plenty of outdoor adventures! We have an exciting season planned, full of hands-on learning, exploration, and lots of fun in the sun. Our days will be filled with water play, mini hikes, and nature walks around the center, giving the children a chance to connect with the world around them while staying active and curious.

We are also excited to dive into several engaging summer themes! We will be exploring the wonders of the ocean—learning about sea creatures, waves, shells, and life under the sea. We will hop into a theme all about frogs, discovering their life cycle and habitats. From beach days to classic summertime fun, our activities will include sensory play, creative art projects, storytelling, and even outdoor science experiments.

We are so proud of all the growth we have seen and can't wait to see what the rest of the summer brings! Here are some things that our Badger are looking forward to this summer.

The Badger Team

Megan and Elizabeth

## Badger Pictures

What are the Badgers' favorite things to do during the summer?

	Nir- Run around for a long time		Aiden- Making sand castles
	Sejal- Play with water		August- Play in the woods
	Alex-Run in the woods		Ian- Everything
	Ijun- Everything		Vincent- Play in Pools
	Solaris- I like to play with the parachute		Tristan- Play outside
	Zola- Play with my mom		Sunny- I like to go to frisbee



Miriam



Caleb



## Black Bears

### Black Bear Classroom:

This has been quite a year for our Black Bear group! These children have grown tremendously and are ready to take their next steps—whether that means heading off to kindergarten, moving to a new country, or becoming leaders in the Black Bear room for our incoming group.

As summer begins, we will be spending more time outside enjoying water play and the sunshine. Please make sure your child always has a bathing suit, towel, and a change of clothes in their cubby.

Looking ahead, we're excited about our annual trip to **Storrs Pond on August 8th**. We will depart around **9:30 a.m.** and return to school by **1:00 p.m.** If you are interested in joining us as a parent chaperone, please let one of the Black Bear teachers know. (Last year we were caught in a thunderstorm—fingers crossed for clear skies this time!)

The last Black Bear Day will be Friday  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



### Some of the BB's favorite activities at school:

- \*Playing outside
- \*Picking things up with my toes
- \*Swinging high
- \*Playing the piano
- \*Playing house outside
- \*Staying outside the longest
- \*Playing in the Big Multi
- \*Sliding down the big green slides
- \*Eating popsicles
- \*Playing with slime and gems

## Black Bear Pictures

