



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter March 2026

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What Makes Our Classrooms Special!

Each class worked together to reflect on and share what makes their classroom a special place in our school community.

Chickadee: We have the best dance parties with bubbles and use pink flamingos to help redirect children in the mornings. The children also get the best snuggles and so much love from their teachers.

Chickadee Too: We love to celebrate everything...even a good BM! The teachers model empathy and compassion while providing so much love and respect to our children.

Owls: The Owl team has had the privilege of working together for 3.5 years and welcomes each child in the unique way they like to be greeted each day. Celebrations are big in this classroom, with birthdays, holidays, and milestones all being recognized.

Hedgehogs: The Hedgehogs have a strong commitment to getting outdoors in nature every day—exploring, problem-solving, playing, and using all of their senses.

Otters: Each child in the Otters classroom is treated as an individual, and the curriculum is developed around the children's interests. As the weather gets warmer, this group will be out and about exploring the creek and pond.

Badgers: The Badgers classroom is filled with creativity and open-ended projects. The teachers implement various languages, including sign language.

Black Bears: The Black Bears classroom works hard to prepare children for kindergarten and incorporates mindfulness, social-emotional learning, and multicultural experiences throughout the curriculum.

From the Director: Kara Cave

Our teachers take part in professional development on a regular basis to learn new information, strengthen their skills, and continue improving the experiences we create for the children in our care. Although New Hampshire state licensing requires 12 hours of training per year, our teachers consistently go above and beyond. This year, we are thrilled that six of our teachers received a grant to complete 110 hours of professional development. Their training focuses on inspiration, focus, self-esteem, positive intentions, emotional well-being, understanding of the world, and healthy discipline.

As part of our ongoing growth, our classrooms worked together to create New Year's resolutions. These goals were thoughtful and meaningful, and they are making a real difference in our daily routines. One shared resolution was to slow down and be more intentional with curriculum. While we often have many activities planned, it is just as important to stay present and enjoy moments as they naturally unfold. Some of the best memories come from experiencing activities through the eyes of the children.

Other classroom resolutions include adding more art projects, creating additional sensory experiences, and spending more time exploring the trails.

Supporting early literacy is an important part of what we do each day. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a strong advocate for early literacy in childcare settings. Early literacy builds the foundation for learning, supports brain development, and strengthens communication skills.

Here are a few simple ways to support early literacy at childcare and at home:

- Create cozy reading areas where children can explore books
- Build reading into daily routines, like after breakfast or before bedtime
- Ask open-ended questions and encourage children to retell stories
- Add reading and writing materials to play areas (menus, books, signs)
- Label items and use everyday print (signs, logos) to show that words have meaning
- Include songs, rhymes, and storytelling throughout the day
- Offer a variety of books, including ones that reflect children's lives

Happy first day of spring! We look forward to spending more time outdoors—having picnics, taking walks, and enjoying nature together. We are also excited to celebrate our Black Bears as they graduate and move on to kindergarten.



From the Associate Director Abby Plummer-LaBombard

Abby Plummer-LaBombard

Associate Director



The snow is gone, the sun is bright,
We play outside in warm, soft light.
Splashing puddles, running free,
Spring is here at D4C!

Little hands plant seeds with care,
Watching flowers grow everywhere.
Laughing, learning, full of cheer,
Happy springtime is here!

As the seasons shift at D4C, we welcome the warmth and energy that spring brings. Snowy days give way to sunshine, puddles, and fresh air as children spend more time exploring the outdoors. This change offers new opportunities for hands-on learning—planting seeds, observing nature, and watching the world come back to life. With lighter jackets and brighter days, we see children grow right alongside the season, full of curiosity, joy, and a renewed sense of wonder.

As we embrace all that spring has to offer, please be sure to provide extra clothing for your child, as we will be getting wet and muddy during outdoor play. Each classroom has a set of rain suits, but they do not always keep everything dry!

Happy Spring everyone!

Announcements:

Therapy Dog

Visiting Classrooms on
March 25th

**D4C will be closed
on March 27th.**

Week of a Young Child Coming in April

Annual Celebration
celebrating early learning,
young children, teachers,
and families.

Clothing Swap

How it works:

Clothing drop-off: March 23–26

Swap Event: March 31, 4:00–5:30 PM

Clothing will be sorted by size for easy
browsing.

Take what your family can use!

Library

We are setting up a small library at
the Black Bear entrance. Once
finished, there will be library cards
and stamps.

Upcoming Closures and Holidays

May 25th -Closed for Memorial Day

July 3rd – Closed for the Fourth Of July

August 24-25 Closed – our teachers will be
preparing for our Fall program.

Our fall program starts on August 26th.

Dartmouth Child Care Staff
March 2026

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	TBT 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 TBT	Megan Widli-Lead Teacher Elizabeth Darragh Jane Sargent

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

Chickadee Families,

Happy Spring from the Chickadee classroom! We have all been enjoying the longer days, warmer temperatures, and MUD! One thing I feel is important in the way a child learns is allowing them to explore as freely as safely possible, which means that children will get dirty while they navigate their world around them. Some things that can be learned through messy play could be cause and effect-what happens when I touch this cold, squishy mud? What am I feeling in my body? I feel warmth when I am standing in this spot but cooler in another. I feel different textures when I crawl through the grass or through the sandbox. Children actively moving their bodies in different ways builds opportunity for their gross motor skills. Adults and caregivers can facilitate infants and toddlers during outside play by using descriptive words for what is going on around them.

Here are some snippets of observations of children in the Chickadee room:

Iris is on the move! She has definitely become more mobile and is even starting to attempt the climber steps in the little multi!

Oscar loves being outside and he has mastered walking in his boots. He spends most of the time sitting in the cars outside and watching his friends. He also enjoys sticking out his tongue and being silly.

Isla has so much interest in animals. She especially likes carrying around a plastic toy cat and dog by their tails. She does lots of babbling and in between babbles, you can hear some words.

Eben is such a smiley busy boy! He loves climbing the climber and going down the slide in the multi. He can say “all done” and play games like “so big”!

Ofelia is working on walking along the walls for balance and seems very close to walking unassisted! She is a great classroom greeter and has a fabulous wave. She also loves to give kisses when you say “besitos” (kisses in Spanish) to her.

Cora enjoys dancing and sitting in the sleds outside so her friends can pull her in them. She recently learned how to say her friend Kaia’s name!

Colin is all about puzzles! He is very good at puzzles that target preschool aged children and asks daily for time to sit quietly and work on them. He enjoys reading and driving cars and trucks on the carpet.

Sophia is a busy girl! She loves exploring every single inch of any room she is in and climbing in and out of the Bumbo chair. She also can say “hi” and has begun taking steps on occasion.

Kaia loves when her teachers sing “We Are the Dinosaurs” to her while making the toy dinos march up her body. She will laugh and hand the dinosaurs back to us over and over again and sign “more.” She loves copying her peers and imitating what they are doing. She also really enjoys puddles!

Warmly,

The Chickadee Team ~ Ashley, Prajna, and Margaret





Chickadee Too Families!

Spring is here, and we are so excited for the change in season! As the weather begins to warm up, we are looking forward to spending more time outdoors, exploring nature, and enjoying some much-needed fresh air with the children!

We also want to give a quick shoutout to all the wonderful staff members who have been helping out in our room while we search for our newest team member. We truly appreciate all the extra hands (and patience!) that have helped keep our busy classroom running smoothly.

Cassian has gone from scooting to walking! He is our resident dinosaur expert and loves reading books about them. One of his favorite songs is *We Are the Dinosaurs*, which means we have been doing a lot of stomping lately. His vocabulary is growing so much—he can now name all his friends and is starting to name colors. Lately, his favorite word is “BIG!” (which he says with the enthusiasm it deserves)!

Ada has been our mini helper throughout the day! She is always eager to help pick up toys at the end of the day (we are considering promoting her to Head of Clean-Up Operations). You will often find her rocking a baby doll and gently telling everyone to “shh” because the baby is sleeping. Her favorite thing to do outside is sledding—she will be ready for the Olympic bobsled team in no time!

Elizabeth is our wonderful welcome committee member! She is often the first to greet parents and friends as they arrive, offering hugs and a big smile. She has been helping teach her friends how to say “water” in Spanish—*agua*! On Fridays, you will usually find her dressed in her fanciest outfit in honor of our Fancy Fridays. Honestly, some of us teachers may need to step up our fashion game!

Bennett has made an exciting transition from crawling to walking! He loves playing on the futon and rolling around like it is a gymnastics mat. In the multi, you will often find him cruising around on the scooter or tractor (who issued his license is still under investigation, but he seems very confident behind the wheel). He is our little adventurer and is always ready for action. Bennett has also discovered how to throw—and we are happy to report he has a very strong arm and great aim!

Avni is our sweet girl who loves to snuggle in our laps. She enjoys looking at books about animals and is always thoughtful about checking in on her friends. She loves building blocks and playing with the pegs, carefully trying to sort them by color. She has also been very creative lately and has started using the toy mirror as a phone—she can often be found having very important conversations on it. She has also joined in on Fancy Fridays with Elizabeth—clearly, we have some very stylish toddlers in our class!

Sam is our sweet little man. He started off very soft-spoken, but he has recently found his voice! If you hear a playful growl across the room, chances are it is Sam. He enjoys art projects and loves feeling the paint between his fingers. His favorite toys are still the ones that make sound, such as the little pianos in the multi or a maraca. Our classroom soundtrack now includes plenty of enthusiastic musical performances!

Lyra has been busy developing new skills as well! She has begun pulling herself up onto shelves and loves playing on the big structure in the multi, especially going down the slide. Her favorite dance move is the shoulder shimmy, which honestly deserves its own spotlight moment. She has also started copying our fishy faces and loves bouncing on the futon whenever music is playing. If there is a dance party happening, Lyra is absolutely attending!

Colt is our curious little guy! You will often see him walking around with his hands behind his back or pointing at something and asking, “What’s that?” He loves exploring and learning about the world around him. He enjoys sitting down to babble with us as well. He is also a big fan of music class and is usually front and center when Michelle plays the ukulele—clearly a future band member in the making!

Greta has recently started pulling herself up, and we love watching her practice this new skill! She is moving all over the place and has recently started climbing on the structure in the little multi. She especially enjoys pulling herself up on the wooden activity cube where she likes to proudly announce her presence with a few enthusiastic squeals. Greta has definitely discovered her voice and loves to babble with us!

As we prepare for the new season, we kindly ask families to check their child’s cubby to make sure they have weather-appropriate clothes for outdoor play. This is also a great time to switch out any clothes that may no longer fit your child’s extra clothing supply. If you notice that the spare clothes in their cubby are getting a little small, please replace them with the next size up so we are prepared for any spills, messes, or accidents throughout the day!

Most importantly, we want you to know how excited and grateful we are to spend our days with your amazing children. We love seeing their personalities shine and cannot wait to make more wonderful memories together this spring!

Thank you for your continued support 😊

With love,

Chickadee Too Teachers





Owl Families,

Happy Spring Everyone! We are so excited to see the sunshine and feel the warm temperature on occasion, hopefully we will see warmer weather soon. As the weather changes, so does your toddler! We have been hearing comments and questions about the “Terrible Twos,” so we thought we would give you some suggestions to help you navigate through this normal and challenging stage of development.

First, we would like you to know that we do not just have “Terrible Twos” in the Owl Room, we have “Terrific Twos”! Here are some wonderful examples of our Terrific Twos:

- *The Owls enjoy singing and know many songs. Sometimes they even change the words of the song. They also request special songs to listen to and move/dance to.
- *All our children are using 2 or more-word sentences to communicate their wants and needs with their teachers and friends.
- *Many of the children are counting, some can count to 10. They also know many colors.
- *The Owl’s are using such polite manners, they say “please” and “thank you” to their friends and teachers.
- *We have so many children that love to smile and give hugs!
- *The Owl children are beginning to understand empathy and ask their friends, “are you OK?”

Our Terrific Twos also exhibit some interesting and challenging behaviors which you may see at home and refer to as “terrible twos.” Some of these challenges may be frequent outbursts, mood changes, endless no’s, testing boundaries, and tantrums. Children from 18 months to three years of age go through significant growth: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, language, independence and curiosity which may result with a tantrum. Big emotions, frustration, and an inability to express themselves may lead to “terrible” behavior. A tantrum is their way of trying to tell you something. This stage may be challenging, but it is essential for growth. This phase will not last forever. As your child learns self-control and expresses themselves better, the tantrums and negative behaviors will decrease in frequency and intensity. Two-year-old children want independence but are not ready yet, so it is helpful when we set them up for success.

Implementing strategies will help you navigate your toddler through this challenging stage. Here are some strategies to help you navigate life with your toddler:

- *Establish routines - children thrive on predictability.
- *Maintain a calm environment with consistent rules.
- *Offer choices - choices should be minimal (2). This will give children a sense of control and reduce frustration.
- *Prevent challenges/meltdowns - make sure they are not tired or hungry.
- *Help name feelings - reduces anxiety by helping them start to understand emotions; do not forget to name the nice ones, too!
- *Redirect or keep them engaged if a tantrum is brewing.
- *Pick your battles - saying no to every request will make them feel unheard.
- *Be flexible - to prevent power struggles.
- *Set expectations for changing situations.
- *Respond calmly.

Hopefully, some of the suggestions we have made will help you navigate through this challenging phase. After the turbulence of the two-year-old is over, you can look forward to MORE FUN!

Fondly,

Maya, Jyanna, and Moya







Hedgehog Spring Newsletter 2026

Our Hedgehogs love playing in the snow and being able to experience some of the winter sports in the Olympics. We had a special skiing day where we were actually allowed on the cross-country trail because we had our skis on!

On our center-wide Olympics day, it was also Hedgehog Hockey day, and the Hedgies loved trying some high school goalie equipment on as well as playing floor hockey all together on the tile floor. We enjoyed climbing on the snowbanks and making tunnels through them to hide and climb through.

We are looking forward to tapping our maple tree and collecting sap to boil into syrup, collecting tadpole eggs to watch turn into frogs, and having our annual mud day by playing in the mud kitchen and extra-encouraging all the messy play!





Nell enjoys caring for babies with her friends and pretending.

to go to Mexico

with the big group of Hedgehogs

that always fly to Mexico.

Nell also likes to play at the art tables in the morning and makes

lots of artwork to bring home for her family.

Yara loves reading books on the couch with her friends and teachers. She especially likes listening to 'Fox in Socks' by Dr. Seuss and who doesn't? (Maybe the teachers after the 3rd time in a row)

Yara has been a great teacher helper the last couple of months and encouraging her peers to clean up when it is time to go outside.



Pele has loved playing outside on the playground lately and being able to scoop the snow, ice, and puddles with the shovels.

His favorite part is playing in the streams created in the swing box and putting dinosaurs in there to "get stuck"



Yofi loves coming into Hedgehogs and immediately playing in the sensory buckets or with our messy art materials! Yofi enjoys playing in water and using tools to fill cups up before slowly dumping them all out and completing his process again.



Alden introduced the Hedgehogs to Frozen and especially the song 'Let it Go' from the soundtrack; Alden grabs one of the toy guitars and belts out 'Let It Go' and enticing his peers to join along with him.

Alden also enjoys pretending to fly to Mexico with his friends.



Hallie has really been enjoying the snowy season this winter; she loves building different sculptures out of snow and revisiting them on our walks. Hallie also enjoys flopping in the snow and making snow angels while looking up at the sky and waiting for her friends to gather around her.





Morgan loved learning about the Winter Olympics and getting to practice all of the sports they play during winter.

One of his favorite days was Hockey Day, where the Hedgehogs played floor hockey after snack and Morgan was so kind to bring in mini hockey sticks for everyone to play at the same time!

Amos still loves playing with vehicles and driving them around the classroom. His confidence and balance have grown, so now Amos enjoys riding the vehicles down the slide. His favorite book to read is 'Katy and the Big Snow' by Virginia Lee Burton



Maxie has been recently obsessed with pretending to fly on an airplane to Mexico! Whether she is playing outside or in the classroom, chances are you will catch Maxie on her way to or from the airport. Max also became a big sister over winter break and has enjoyed sharing stories about her baby brother with her friends.



Artie brings his favorite 'Blueguy' (stingray) toy in to share with his friends; his favorite thing to do is to zoom around the classroom with his stingray and go down the slide together. Artie also enjoys playing on the climber and pretending to fly on an airplane.



Kaylee recently returned from a special trip to visit her grandparents in China. She was gone for three weeks, and the Hedgehogs missed her very much! Since returning, Kaylee has enjoyed playing in dress-up and reading all of the Dr. Seussbooks on our shelf.



Arwen can often be heard singing on the couch or climber to her baby or jamming out with a guitar by herself. Arwen loves music on Tuesdays with Michelle and is the one friend who already knows the words to a majority of her songs.



Otter Families,

Greetings from the Otter Room! This year in the Otter Room we have a mixed group. Everyone in the Otters this year is either 2 turning 3 or 3 turning 4. Everyone is now three and going on 4! With the mixed group Hannah and I have had to change our curriculum to make it academically appropriate for this age group. This is something we Otter teachers take pride in doing and have accomplished well with each individual student. Spring is a big deal for the Otters! In March we start out with our Dr. Seuss curriculum.

The two big topics we read are the Lorax, and There's a Wocket in my Pocket! From the Lorax we learn that our actions have effects on others, not just people, but animals, and our planet as well. We introduce predictions and come up with our own story line to compare. We talked about different ways we can keep the plants that all come back in the spring healthy. We talked about what we can do to keep the trees and other plants which we can still see in the winter healthy as well. We then move on to the Otters reading There is a Wocket in my Pocket. From this book the Otters get to use their creative design by drawing and naming their own Wocket, that I turn into a stuffed animal for them to keep. This takes me a little bit of time, so they have not finished them yet.

Following the introduction of prediction, we read our first chapter book; the B.F.G (The Big Friendly Giant). We use photos to help follow the story line each day and write notes on the board to help the Otters keep their predictions for the next day. The Otters in the past have then gone into other classroom to explain the book and answer questions others may have about the B.F.G.. We always start out by confirming that giants are not real and that they do not really eat people! We then go over what we know so far and write down any questions we may have. Once the chapter or two are done we then check to see if our questions were answered in what we just read or if we need to wait and see what the next chapter(s) may bring.

With the warm weather coming we are looking forward to getting the kids outside and into a more nature-based curriculum. We enjoy taking the kids on long nature walks and special visits to the creek out behind the rugby field. Watching children use their imagination and creativity on their own scenarios is one of the great joys of being a childcare provider. We find that the children get more out of an outside playing experience with no toys than they do with a playground full of toys they use every day. Our goal this spring is to start a garden with Otters and see what different foods we can grow on our own. We are also going to be contributing to our compost pile and see how different types of food decompose into healthy dirt for gardening. The Otters also enjoy walking to the vernal pool and looking for frog eggs and catching what frogs we can. Sometimes we have even been lucky enough to spot a turtle, or the kids favorite... a snake that may or may not make Ms. Josie jump!

The Otter room is a Strong believer in allowing the children to learn from safe natural consequences. For example, if we are out for a walk with the otters and they are given the instruction to walk around the puddle and not through it if they do not have rain boots. Walking through the puddle with sneakers will result in wet shoes. This is an area where we have explained to others, do not get upset if a child chooses to walk through the puddle with their sneakers. You have given the child a choice, “if you walk through the puddle in your sneakers, you will have wet feet, and I do not have spare shoes to give you.” The child has chosen they do not care about having wet feet and tromps through the puddle with laughing delight. It is now time to walk back to the center, and the child wants dry shoes because they do not like their wet ones. The walk back to the center would be a natural consequence for not avoiding the puddle. With natural consequences it is imperative not to get upset or angry with the child. Megan and I have found it best to talk to the child about their choices and explain “when we get back to the center then you can change your shoes. You chose to go through the puddle in your sneakers and now they are wet. This is a consequence of your actions.

Along with natural consequences the otter room believes in letting the children figure things out for themselves. Most of the time you find that in a classroom setting with this age group, there is a lot of “tattle tailing” we prefer that the children use their words to figure out their differences on their own. It is okay to allow the children to argue in a safe respectful manner. However, there is a fragile line between safe and respectful and not. Having two children argue over a toy or a certain space in the classroom is okay as long as the argument is progressive. If the argument has concluded that they both want the same space but do not want to share, they can then take turns and discuss who can go next, there is no reason for the teacher to step in and help them make that decision. If the conversation is not progressive and it turns into a yelling match of “ME, NO, ME!” or it looks like it may become physical is when a teacher then steps in to give them the tools to make the best decision vs just giving them the answer of what to do. This helps with social emotional, communication and to take another’s perspective of the situation.

Warmly,

The Otter Room ~ Josie and Hannah



Badger Families,

Everything is starting to thaw, with just a little bit of cold still sneaking in now and then. The snow is slowly melting away, the days are getting longer, and you can feel that quiet shift that means spring is right around the corner. After months of bundling up and embracing winter, the Badgers are excited to get outside more, explore, and start playing in the mud!

We are also excited to welcome Jane to the Badger Room! The Badgers have been spending the past few weeks getting to know her, and we are so happy to have another teacher join the Badger team. Jane has already been a wonderful addition to our classroom, and we are looking forward to all the fun, learning, and adventures ahead together as we head into spring.

We have also been working hard on many different things to get us ready for our next adventure at DCCCC! Our Badgers have been diligently practicing identifying the letters in their names, spelling their names without looking, and writing their names on just about anything and everything they create. It has been so exciting to watch their confidence grow as they recognize and write their names more independently.

Over the past few months, we have also spent a lot of time exploring the alphabet. Each week we have been focusing on a different letter, learning its sound, finding words that begin with it, and even practicing how to sign it in ASL.

We have also had so many fun themes and activities over the winter months. During our science explorations, we created our very own crystals and learned all about static electricity. One of our favorite weeks was our Ice Age theme, which the Badgers absolutely loved and still talk about from time to time! We learned about cave paintings and created our own cave art for our bulletin board, explored the different animals that lived during the Ice Age, and even conducted our own blubber experiment to see how animals stay warm in icy environments.

We ended our last few weeks of winter celebrating Dr. Seuss and enjoyed all his silly and imaginative stories. The Badgers had so much fun diving into the playful world of rhymes and creativity! We spent time creating our very own stories and letting our imaginations run wild, just like the characters in Dr. Seuss books. To make it even more fun, everyone came in wearing their very own wacky costumes to show off their best Dr. Seuss character creations.

We also had a full week dedicated to Literacy! Throughout the week, we explored many different stories, practiced learning how stories are put together, and even worked on creating some of our very own. To wrap up the week, the Badgers brought in their favorite books from home to share with their friends, giving everyone a chance to talk about and enjoy the stories they love.

This spring, we have many exciting activities planned for the Badgers, including more adventures on the nature trail right outside of DCCCC! We are looking forward to spending more time outdoors exploring and observing nature. This gives the Badgers time to move their bodies, follow their curiosity, and learn from the natural environment around them.

In the classroom, the Badgers will continue exploring the alphabet while building their confidence in recognizing both letters and numbers. Through songs, games, hands-on activities, and playful learning experiences, the children are strengthening their early literacy and math skills. We are also placing a strong focus on social-emotional growth. Lately, we have discovered some wonderful books to read together as a group that spark group conversations and help the Badgers practice important life skills. Through these stories and

conversations, the children are learning about respecting personal space, remembering to ask before taking or joining in, and finding positive ways to manage the big feelings that can come up during frustrating moments.

We are looking forward to the months ahead and are excited to watch the Badgers continue to grow and learn. Thank you for being a part of our classroom journey!

The Badger Team

Megan, Elizabeth, and Jane

Teddy showing off his best bike skills!



Oscar showing off his sweet loading truck!



Rhett practicing to be an Olympian



Koko showing off his best balancing skills



Bash creating his own static electricity



Vera and Logan at the ice cream station



Badgers cave art creation!



Desmond Pretending to be a seal and keeping his flippers warm!



Pippa and Laila testing out the blubber experiment



Simon and his giant ice cream tower



Charlotte and River Dancing



Black Bears Winter Press

GEAR UP FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Discover comforting recipes, festive winter activities, and creative holiday celebration ideas for next year's festivities from the Black Bear classroom!

These are the recipes you need!

This winter season, the Black Bears cooked up a storm for birthday celebrations and holidays. During these cooking opportunities, they continued to strengthen their hand-eye coordination, basic math, life, patience, and listening skills. Below is a list of Black Bears' favorite meals!



Día de los Muertos: Pan de Muerto (a traditional Mexican sweet bread to honor loved ones who have passed and leave as an offering on ofrendas).



Black History Month: Cornbread + Sorrel (compliments for their soul food platters representing resilience, cultural survival, and blending of African, Caribbean, and Southern traditions).



Month: Nasaump (a Wampanoag staple dish representing connection to the land).



Hanukkah: Latkes (a traditional Ashkenazi Jewish fried potato pancake, to honor the oil used by the Maccabees, while representing resilience, faith, and the celebration of light over darkness).



Christmas: Sugar Cookies (the Black Bears baked and decorated cookies to give out during our annual Christmas Sing-along).



Mardi Gras: Beignets (a beloved sweet fried dessert that represents the fusion of cultures, resilience, and the joy of New Orleans).

Gear Up And Get Out!

The Black Bears explored many aspects of winter, including the Arctic, the Winter Solstice, and space, through fun hands-on activities. Below are some of the Black Bears' favorites!



August

Winter Sports Wk:
Skeleton Sledding



Alaina

Winter Sports Wk: Snow
Shoeing / Walk Day



Aiden

Winter Sports Wk:
Ice Climbing



Caleb

Arctic Wk:
Ice Fishing



Callen

Winter Sports Wk:
Ice Picking



Alex

Walk Day



Ian

Space Wk:
Celebrating Holi



Jackson

Winter Sports Wk:
Ice Fishing



Miriam

Space Wk:
Creating Auroras



Sunny

Arctic Wk:
Blubber Sci-Experiment



Tesfay

Arctic Wk:
Ice Fishing



Violet

Winter Sports Wk:
Skiing



Zubin
Walk Days



Zola
Walk Days



Ijun
Space Wk: Moon
Gazing (Mindfulness)



Tristan
Walk Days

Looking for ways to celebrate the winter holiday season?

In the Black Bear classroom, we did a ton of crafting and held many parades to celebrate holidays this winter season, highlighting how our community's participation enriches cultural understanding!

Ramadan

Design crescent moons using paper plates, glitter, and yarn.



Selloal (Korean New Year)

Decorate and assemble a Korean pellet drum using paint, beads, yarn, and a stapler.



Mardi Gras

Design beads and masks, and parade through the building, tossing them to spread joy and celebrate the vibrant traditions and community spirit of Mardi Gras!



Kiddies Caribbean Carnival

Decorate headdresses with beautiful gems, colorful feathers, and more. To top it off, the Black Bears created their own rain sticks to make music during the parade, listening to soca music, and showing off their best dance moves!



Chinese New Year

In the morning, the Black Bears colored their dragon masks and designed lanterns. Using dragon masks and a long cloth to work together, moving their dragon dance through the halls, playing classical Chinese dragon dance music to excite others, and bringing good fortune!



International Women's March In honor of Women's History Month, the Black Bears learned about many inspiring and trailblazing women from around the world and celebrated with a women's march. Additionally, we invited many mothers in to discuss their profession!



Thank you for reading our winter release!

