



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

Fall 2019

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Abby Plummer, Dawn
Cote, Karen Small

Floating Team

Terri Crane, Kristin Cole, Liz
Harrington, Sue Downey,
Riley Gray

FALL FESTIVAL FUN!!!







From the Director

It really is a new year! New groups are forming, and everyone is trying very hard to get to know one another! We are all coming back from an exciting summer. Many children had adventures during the summer months. I know I was able to cruise in Alaska, sky dive, take a helicopter ride, go hot-air ballooning and zip line among other things this summer! But now we are back to life as usual – kind of!

The kids are in new classrooms with different expectations because they are growing! They may be in a bigger space with more children or a smaller space with more children. They may be in the same space with different children. The key word here is different. I have been fortunate enough to be able to spend some time in classrooms. The kids are doing great - I'm tired! I imagine that you are tired too negotiating this time of transition!

During transition time, we all tend to forget some of the things that we knew just because everything is so new. Here are a few reminders for the start of a new year:

- Label your child's clothing: every item.
- Keep a set of spare clothes (or two or three) in your child's cubby.
- Dress your child in layers. We'll peel them off and put them back on as the temperature dictates.
- Include a dated note in your child's lunch, **every day**, to let us know that is has passed your tree nut and peanut free inspection.
- Always sign in and out.
- Call to let us know if your child isn't coming for the day or will be very late.
- Let your child's teacher know when you are leaving at the end of the day and expect a report about your child's day.
- Arrive in time to be out of the building by 5:30 (or you will get a dreaded late fee
Hint: if you are arriving after 5:30 your card will not give you access to the building so be sure to call if you are running late so that we can watch for your arrival.
- Keep older and younger siblings with you while they are in the building.
- Reinforce our rule, "The Multi closes at 5:15."
- Don't wait long before you ask your child's teacher about something that is worrying you. Talk to Sunnie if you have concerns.
- Let us know when your phone number, address, place of work, income or emergency contacts have changed.

- Be prepared to give your full attention to your child and your child's teacher when you drop off or pick-up – that phone call might have to wait a few minutes.
- Be ready to be very tired!
- Drive very, very slowly on Reservoir Road.
- Share your family culture and traditions with your child's class!
- Do something nice for yourself!

Let us know what we can do to make your childcare experience all that you hope it will be! I'm looking forward to another great year!

Sunnie

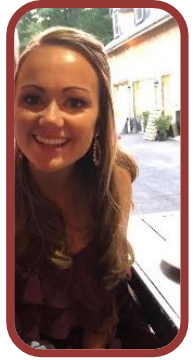
(I'll include a couple of pics from my summer)



Abby Notes

Hello Families,

For those of you that do not know me: Hi, I am Abby! I sit in the office to the right, as you walk in the front door. This year has flown by! As I said last Fall, I am so excited and thankful to be here.



We have embarked on the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Accreditation journey. To give you an idea of what this is, here is a snip bit from NAEYC's website: "NAEYC Accreditation helps teachers and other staff at early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. The accreditation process leads to increased staff morale, greater staff retention, and a more positive, energetic work atmosphere overall—enabling centers to provide a solid foundation for all children's success in life." Sunnie and I have been doing observations and speaking with teachers on meeting certain NAEYC criteria. This process has given me a greater insight on the work the teachers at D4C do. They are truly amazing!

One of my favorite parts of this past year has been subbing in classrooms. We currently have some staff openings; luckily for me that means spending time with teachers, children and talking with families!

My son, Brody, has started his DCCCC journey in the Hedgehog room! It is such a blessing having him here with me!



Best,
Abby Plummer

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

Picture Day Is Coming

Thanks for suggestions for a new photographer. We have selected *Picture Lady Children's Portraiture* from Haverhill, Massachusetts to try this year.

**Picture Day will
be November 25,
2019**

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

**-Thursday and Friday, November 28
and 29 – Thanksgiving.**
**-December 23, 2019-January 1, 2020
– Winter break**
**-Monday, March 23, 2020 – Inservice
day**
**-Monday, May 25, 2020– Memorial
Day**
**-Friday, July 3, 2020 – Independence
Day**

Family Survey

Watch your inbox next week for a link to our family survey. We want to hear from you about how things are going thus far in the new year and what else we can do to make your experience better.

"We Sign" story time in Hanover (with Kelly Jarosz)

Saturday, October 19, 2019 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Saturday, November 02, 2019 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Saturday, November 16, 2019 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Saturday, December 07, 2019 10:30 am - 11:00 am
Saturday, December 21, 2019 10:30 am - 11:00 am

[Howe Library](#) 13 South St., Hanover, NH

Free

Stories, rhymes, songs and games incorporating American Sign Language vocabulary. For infants to age 4.

Contact Info

Denise Reitsma, Howe Library

denise.reitsma@thehowe.org

[603-640-3268](tel:603-640-3268)

Film: "Kid Flicks Tour"

in Hanover

Saturday, October 19, 2019

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Hopkins Center for the Arts

4 E. Wheelock St.

Hanover, NH

Price: \$8.00

Animated and live-action film shorts from the New York International Children's Film Festival. Best for ages 3-7. In English or no dialogue.

Contact Info

Hopkins Center for the Arts

hop.box@dartmouth.edu

603-646-2422

More Info

Film: "Kid Flicks Tour" in Hanover

Ticket/Registration Links

Film: "Kid Flicks Tour" in Hanover

Halloween movie double feature

in Claremont

Saturday, October 19, 2019

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Claremont Savings Bank Community Center

152 South St.

Claremont, NH

Directions

Price: Free

Back-to-back screenings of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," along with snacks, drinks and Halloween-themed activities.

Contact Info

Claremont Parks & Recreation

603-542-2416

Nearly New Sale

in Norwich

Friday, October 18, 2019 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, October 19, 2019 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, October 20, 2019 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tracy Hall

300 Main St.

Norwich, VT

Directions

Quality fall and winter clothing for the whole family. Profits benefit the Norwich Women's Club educational scholarship fund.

Contact Info

Annette Brown

Norwich Women's Club

info@norwichwomensclub.org

802-649-8833



News from the Chickadee Ones

Ali Hull
Lead Teacher

Deserai Scott

Happy Fall from the Chickadee Ones

The 2019-2020 school is off with a bang. These chickadees are already getting comfortable with their environment and teachers, as we are learning their schedules, likes, dislikes and together getting to know one another.

Music started on October 1st with Brooke. The children enjoy it very much. Brooke brings all different instruments, dance moves and songs. Music class is from 9:15-9:45. Feel free to join music class whenever you would like with your child. If Tuesdays are a day your child does not attend the center, you are still more than welcome to come and enjoy music class with us. It happens in the little multipurpose room with Chickadee Toos and the Owls.

We have been enjoying the last bits of summer and getting ready for fall. We have spending lots of time outside exploring-the fresh cut grass, the flowers, the insects (grasshoppers, bees, worms, amongst others). We have gone on walks in the strollers and played in all the different climbers on our playground. At this time of the year we get many visitors from other classrooms who just need that little baby fix.

*Clothing reminders for parents-Please make sure your child has plenty of extra clothes in their cubby. They are often changed from being outside. As it gets colder children will need mittens, winter hats, and snow gear (snow pants, winter coat, snow suit, boots or some type of slip on for their feet) We will be going outside in the winter.

The Chickadee Ones:

Riley- We are excited to have Riley staying with us for another year. She is beginning to say more and more words-our favorite it “taco” She enjoys being outside and exploring, reading books, and dancing (even to lullabies).

August-August is staying with us for his second year. He has been walking more and more, enjoys spending time with Riley and exploring everywhere. August likes to climb, drive the cars outside, and get snuggles.





Hudson- Hudson has started to take steps. He is up to seven! He has grown comfortable in his environment and is exploring all the things around him. He loves outside time and exploring the world around him.



Timothy-Timmy has settled in well to the chickadees. He enjoys being outside and taste testing all the different objects he can get his hands on. He likes puzzles, books, and all different cars.



Estera-Etta always come with a smile on her face ready to play. She is making attachments to her teacher and classmates. Etta enjoys crawling around outside and scooping and dumping in the sand box.



Judah & Abram- joined us in the beginning of October and are settling in well. We look forward to getting visits from their big sister Cali whom we had the joy of having last year and is now in the owls. They are beginning to smile more and observe all around them.



Miles -is settling in and learning how to nap in his crib. He is getting comfortable with tummy time and exploring all the toys, environment, and the staff. He gives the sweetest smiles and giggles.

Iris – Iris is becoming more independent and learning how to share the environment with her classmates. She enjoys observing the other children and playing alongside of them.





Jade -takes off crawling and pulls to stand all day long. Jade loves meal times and playing in the side box outside.

Ronan -will be joining us towards the end of October. We look forward to getting to know him.

In November we will have our first family event-Family AM snack. It will be with the Chickadee Too families. I will send more information out as it gets closer. This is a great opportunity to meet the other families and spend time with their teachers.

Reminders:

*Please wash your child's hands upon arrival. We share the kitchen space with the chickadee tops and all the babies are making their way around the kitchen. If your child is able there is a sink at their level which they seem to enjoy. We wash children's hands before and after meals, coming in from outside and periodically throughout the day.

*We do our best to answer emails as they come in. If for any reason we are not answering them in a timely fashion, please call :) It seems to be easier to pick up the phone and talk instead of emailing when we get busy.

*Daily sheets-Please make sure you are checking them and seeing what your child needs and how their day was. Many times, we write cute little notes or stories about your child's day.

*For those of you who are wondering about picking up days. We have families that ask for extra days sometimes. As long as you ask in advance, we can let you know numbers we are expecting that day. In turn if picking up is an option we white out a spot for your child on the sign in sheet and once we hand that in, you will be billed.

Articles:

I like to attach some articles that I find interesting or may help in some areas.

We have been seeing a lot of these:

<https://shark1053.com/dont-touch-this-cute-nh-caterpillar/>

A lot of parents ask about first food and meals. I found this very interesting and helpful:

<https://www.thebump.com/a/baby-solid-food-guide>

Working with infants and toddlers always means there is biting-they do not have the words to express their needs yet. It is totally age appropriate. Here are some tips

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/understanding-and-responding-children-who-bite>

Happy Fall
Ali for chickadee one

News from the Chickadee Toos

Teresa Hahn,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins

Angelica Morrison

GREETINGS FROM CHICKADEE TOO

We are off to a great start for the 2019-2020 school year. We are getting to know each other, learning our different schedules and making new friends. The air is filled with the sounds of September, as we make our needs and wants known.

Our 3 big girls are staying for another year with us, Isabella, Tessa and Riley. They are showing the new friends the ropes, giving lots of love to the babies, and showing them how to move around the room.

We have been lucky to have some lovely fall weather and get the children outside most days. We have been making good use of the strollers to get the little ones out, and the big girls like to help push.

In November we will be joined by Veronica and Muhammad-Ali, which will fill us to capacity. Half of the class has siblings in the center, so we look forward to visits with brothers and sisters.

In November we will have a family snack with both Chickadee classrooms. I will send out more details as we get closer. It is a nice time to get to know the other families a little better.

We had our first music class with Brooke on October 1st. What fun! Looking forward to Tuesdays. If your child does not attend school on Tuesdays, you are welcome to bring them in and attend the class together. It starts at 9:15.



Please be sure your child has extra clothes for inside and adequate outdoor clothing and footwear. And please label with their name or initials. Thank you.

I am excited to be starting a new year and looking forward to all the learning and growth of the Chicks in the coming months.

Happy Fall,
Teresa for Chick Too



News from the Owls

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin

Moya Stevens

Dear Owl Families,

We wanted you to know what a typical day is like in the Owl Room. While each day is different there is a flow to each day. We encourage children to play together but also allow time to be one on one with each child. Here is what our day looks like:

7:15am to 7:30am: One of us arrives and prepares for the day. We set up chairs and tables, activities, get out paperwork for the day and go to the main kitchen for snack. Debbie gets her coffee going while Moya may have hot chocolate. Wendy just gets right to work on rearranging the classroom and the

little multi.

7:30am to 8am: Here comes Hayden and, after saying goodbye to mom, he goes to the garden window to look for birds. Then he checks out what activities are on the table.

8am to 8:30am: The second teacher arrives and greets everyone. Mary comes in and sees the vegetable cutting activity. After washing her hands, she sits at the table and cuts food. After a while she pretends to eat the wooden carrot.

8:30am to 9:00am: We announce that snack is ready. Most children come right to the table, ready to eat. Charlie picks a chair to sit in and chants, "milk, milk".

9:00am to 9:30am: Once some have finished snack, we start a diaper change for everyone. Declan comes over to tell me he has a poop. Once up on the table he asked for a purple glove to put on. Diaper time is not a rushed affair. This is a special time that we can spend one on one with each child. We talk, sing and engage with each child during diaper changes.

9:30am to 10am: Our third teacher arrives, and we start our main activity. Audrey comes right over to peel apples and happily chews on a long strip of peeling while waiting her turn.





10:00 to 10:30am: We get ready to go outside by cleaning up toys. This is a one on one time of day with us encouraging everyone to help and working individually with others to pick up. Most are still learning the concept of putting things away while others are a big help! Coats and hats are gotten from the cubby area and we encourage everyone to find their own items and put on their hats.



10:30am to 11:00am: Once outside Benjamin grabs a shopping cart to push. He needs help getting by a car and we encourage him to "use your muscles"!

11:00am to 11:30am: Some children start to ask about lunch and we reassure them that it is getting ready. One teacher goes in to take out lunch boxes, warm what needs to be warmed, set food on plates or bowls, check "nut free notes" and cut any food that needs to be cut. Maia knows just what to do at lunch. She takes off her coat, goes to the bathroom to wash her hands and finds a seat.



11:30am to 12:00pm: Calie sits down with her pasta and beans and eats them all. Then she is onto her sweet potatoes. She focuses on her food and uses her spoon when reminded.

12pm to 12:30pm: Some children are finishing up lunch. Ava Grace eats her lunch and then tries to reach for other people's lunches! She goes into the little multi and picks up a baby doll. One teacher starts another round of diapers.



12:30pm to 2pm: We clean up the multi and head for our nap mats. Most will easily put a book or truck on the shelf. Delores Dianne goes into the nap room and lays on Benjamin's bed. He is not happy about that and we redirect Delores Dianne to her own bed. She gets a toy off a shelf and one of us goes to sit beside her and rub her back. She is asleep within two minutes. Once everyone is asleep one teacher goes on a break, one does the dishes and one writes on daily sheets. Before the laundry is done some children start to stir and we take them into the little multi to cuddle and look at books.



2pm to 2:30pm: Eli comes into the multi and soon is beside one of us singing. After listening for a moment, we realize she can sing, "Five Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed" all on her own.

2:30pm to 3pm: More children wake up. Some wake slowly and need to be cuddled while other come charging in, ready to play.

3pm to 3:30pm: Graham is still sleeping. We pull up the shades and turn off the sound machines. Graham slowly opens his eyes and smiles.

3:30pm to 4pm: Snack time! We do another round of hand washing and everyone is ready to eat.

4pm to 4:30pm: We start another round of diapers before we start our afternoon. Going outside in the afternoon will end soon and we will spend our time in the classroom. One way we transition to the fall is by wrapping our garden tree in solar lights. Children soon learn that once the lights come on the tree, parents will be here soon.

4:30pm to 5pm: Each day is different. We offer dancing, flannel stories, coloring and new toys. Some days are loud and energetic, and some are spent reading books.

5pm to 5:30pm: Parents start to arrive. Once everyone leaves, we get the room ready for the next day: chairs on table, rugs up, activity shelves ready for the morning.

We never know what each day will bring. Will someone be teething and need extra comfort? Will the rain hold off until lunchtime? We do know there will be a few tears, lots of smiles and hugs and, always, busy toddlers. We thank you all for sharing your child with us!

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and Moya



News from the Hedgehogs

Danielle Field,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro

Emily Courtemanche

Greetings Hedgehog Families,

Happy Fall everyone! We have had a great start to our year, and we are so excited to continue learning and exploring with your Hedgehogs! Even though we are still in our beginning months, the children have adjusted well into their daily routines, and continue to show us their rapidly developing skills. These include hand washing, cleaning up their snack and lunch spots, and putting their lunch box and water bottles away in the fridge, to name a few. It is so exciting to see how much they are grasping and learning in such a short amount of time. And it is not just their tidying abilities! We have seen major growth in their self-help skills, such as putting on and taking off outdoor clothes, as well as their shoes and socks. As everyone has become more comfortable in the classroom after the initial transitional phase, we have enjoyed seeing the Hedgehog's individual personalities emerge, as well as the budding friendships that are developing.



We are also very excited to announce our new associate teacher in the Hedgehog Room, Emily Courtemanche. Emily has been a float at DCCCC for the past year, and we are thrilled to have her be a part of our team. Welcome Emily!



Last month, along with learning all of our new routines, we explored two themes: life on the farm and lots and lots of apples! We dressed up like different farm animals and pretended to act like them, learned a new song ("Trot Old Joe") that has quickly become a class favorite, and even had a picnic snack with farm animal stuffies. For the middle and later part of the month, we took a deep-dive into learning about apples, first with exploring what is inside of an apple and making apple prints. We had a chance to balance some apples on top of our heads after reading, *Ten Apples Up on Top* by Theo LeSieg, and made our own Mac apples after reading *Bad Apple* by Edward Hemingway. We even



picked apples from the apple tree in the front of DCCCC. To finish out our exploration, we engaged in a plethora of cooking projects: baking apple muffins, making apple peel chips using a manual apple peeler, and finally making our very own homemade applesauce that the Hedgehogs brought home. Of course, we cannot forget about our monarch caterpillars that we housed through their transformation from chrysalis' to butterflies! The Hedgehogs were so excited to come in each day to see what stage the caterpillars were in. Thank you the Ohz family for donating a few caterpillars that they found at their home!



September also brought us a new celebration to learn about. Aiden's parents, Talia and Jeremy, came in and taught us all about the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah. Talia read us a story: *Rosh Hashanah is Coming!* by Tracy Newman, and each Hedgehog was able to place a different item on the Rosh Hashanah table. To close out the celebration, we all held hands and said, "Shanah Tovah!" and then blew our very own kazoo shofars. We also shared an apple and honey snack together. Thank you, Manning family!



We began October with our first birthday of the school year: Jack's 2nd birthday! This month, we have been exploring more of our Fall season with, of course, leaves! The Hedgehogs have loved jumping in leaf piles and then throwing the leaves into the air. We have also been excited to find leaves out on our walks around the neighborhood and on the trails, especially after reading *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger. Many of these leaves made their way into different art explorations, like leaf collages, and leaf people creations inspired by *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert. October also meant





the start of Music with Brooke again, one of our absolute favorite activities. Along with the music we learn from Brooke, we also learned a few new songs, like “I’m a Nut,” “Gray Squirrel,” and “Leaves Are Falling.” As the month progresses, we are excited to turn our attention towards pumpkins, family conferences, and our upcoming Halloween Pinata Party!



Next month, we will be having another family celebration with Dorothea’s family, where we will learn all about the Mexican holiday, Dia de Muertos, or Day of the Dead. We are very excited to learn about another family tradition. Thank you, DiBlasi-Allen family!

We are so looking forward to what is sure to be a very exciting year for the Hedgehogs!

On behalf of the Hedgehog Team,
Danielle



News from the Otters

Stephanie Cummings,
Lead Teacher

Vipasha Oza

Maya Lopez

Greetings Otter Families,

Can you believe it's October already, your child has been in the Otter room for over a month! We are having so much fun getting to know your child. The Otters love interacting with their peers whether they are new friends or children who have transitioned with them. This group of children are so caring and compassionate and genuinely want to make them their friends feel better if they see that a friend is sad.

We have been busy in the Otter room, learning lots of new things. The weather has been warm and dry giving us lots of freedom to experience the outdoors and understand the changes that take place in fall. We have gone for walks, build fairy houses in our nearby wooded areas and used the fallen leaves for raking and jumping in as well as lots of art projects! During our time indoors we have chosen to focus on different themes including the 5 senses, Nursery rhymes, Guatemala, Chicka Chicka ABC, Fall and of course Apples!



We started early in the year with our cultural/religious celebrations and there are many more to come throughout the year. In the first few weeks we celebrated and learnt about Guatemala. Maya did a fantastic job of coordinating this fun filled week with a variety of activities to depict life in Guatemala. These activities ranged from: deciphering Mayan numerals, make a barrilete, make tortillas, playing with jungle animals, pyramid blocks, play the marimba and I think the highlight of the whole week, watching a volcano erupt. We have had lots of dramatic play revolving around volcanos since then. We then celebrated Rosh Hashanah and the Otters rang in the Jewish New Year with eating honey and apples for snack.

The Otter class is also fortunate to have visits from Erin Norton who comes to read with the children once a week. The children love Erin and the stories that she reads. This experience has allowed the children to develop empathy with Erin to understand how to communicate with her and to feel comfortable to ask questions about her disabilities. I love how much diversity we have brought to the Otter room already!



We have many exciting things to look forward to in the coming months, we have Pumpkins, Halloween, Turkeys, Hibernation, Thanksgiving and Gingerbread themes to explore as well as the celebrations of Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas. Now

that we have spent time getting to know your child and they are comfortable with the Otter program and routine we want to spend more time doing some fun/special activities. The teachers too have different cultural backgrounds. Over the coming year we want to celebrate Welsh and Indian and festivals as well as the importance of celebrating festivals of the country in which we all call home. If you have any celebrations or festivals that are important to you or your family, please let us know so we know how we can support this in class.

At this age, children are naturally eager to seek out more independence and control over their world. The problem is that while children desire to want to be their own person although they have not yet mastered self-control. Children are driven by their needs, wants, and impulses and not through logic and reason. This can be a frustrating time for teachers and parents, but it is vital to know that even the most frustrating behaviors are normal and developmentally appropriate. Here are a few tips that we use for positive behavior.



1. **Validate your child's feelings** "I know it's frustrating when you can't play with the toy that you want.
2. **Offer a few choices (acceptable to you)** "Do you want to climb into your car seat or would you like me to put you in?" "It's time to leave the playground do you want to walk by yourself or hold my hand." This gives children control with a positive way, reducing defiance.
3. **Use distraction techniques** Pay no attention to a tantrum. Talk about something unrelated or ask questions about something that is going on around them.
4. **Use timers** "I will leave the classroom in 2 minutes when my alarm goes off?" This gives children a visual aid to help them transition.
5. **Avoid giving in** If you give into tantrums, your child will learn that if they push you hard enough, they can get what they want. This will make it more difficult the next time that you try to enforce a limit.

I have copied a link to great article about Coping with Defiance by Zero to Three for further reading which goes over the points I have already mentioned and highlights the positive behavior techniques we use in class.

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/14-coping-with-defiance-in-the-early-years>



Some quick reminders:



- Please sign your child in and out of the room. The sheet is for parents only. This sheet is used by Dawn and required by licensing. Children's scribbles can make it hard to read. If your child is hesitant to leave and you pick up a sibling first and have already signed out, you need to sign your child back in again so that they are our responsibility.
- Your child needs to have a signed and dated no nut note EVERY day. Please check that any processed food is not processed in a facility that also processes peanuts or tree nut products. If there is no 'no nut note' we will call home to check if the lunch is nut free. If we cannot contact you to confirm it is nut free, we will substitute items, if appropriate.
- Please wash your child's hands on arrival.
- We have several extended family members on our daily e-mail, if there are family members that would appreciate having a daily update about their little Otter at DCCCC, then please e-mail all three teachers with their e-mail information so we can add them to our contact list.
- The center closes at 5:30pm, children need to be picked-up and have left the building by 5:30pm.
- Bring seasonal appropriate clothing as needed.

Coming up we will have our parent snack on Wednesday, October 23rd at 4pm. Keep this date free so we can meet together, it's a chance to get to know each other better as well as getting to know the teachers who care for your children.

From the Otter room,
Stephanie, Vipasha and Maya

News from the Badgers

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Miranda Arruda

Hello Badger Families,

We are at the point in the year that we can measure how long your children have been Badgers by weeks and even months. So very much has happened in that period. An incredible amount of learning and brainpower has gone into our days. Children and adults alike have had to ask those important cognitive questions of who, what, where, when, and how.

Who are we? This is not just learning names. Who are we as a whole person? What makes you happy, or not? How do we express ourselves? Are we passive? Are we confident? Are we nurturing? How do we communicate? How are we the same or how are we different? Are we independent? What are interests and motivations? You get the idea. There are endless amounts of questions that we ask ourselves about one another to become successful social beings and learn.



What? What is expected? What should I do? What will happen? What is that for? What will that do? What if..... What can I do or not do? What do I use this for?

Where? Where are you going? Where does this belong? Where will I go, and for how long? Where did you come from?

When? When will you be back? When is it my turn? When can I decide? When can I play? When do I need to pay attention? When can I do that again?

How? How can I do that? How do I tell you what I need to? How did that happen? How will I know it's my turn?

Why? Why are some of my friends not in this class? Why do I get to pour my own drink now? Why are you having me solve some of my own problems? Why are they not listening to me? Why don't you listen even when I use my words? Why did that happen? Why do you say following the rules is important? Why don't I have what you have? Why do I need to rest when I want to keep playing? Why are you asking me to do things that used to be done for me?

As social beings, we are continually and constantly asking those cognitive questions. Once we get some of those answered and figured out, we can free up space to answer questions that help us learn about the world around us.



Your children have learned so much about one another, about rules and expectations and will continue to do so. We have moved on to explore more about what interests them. The unit on trains was a big source of learning. What types of trains exist, what they are used for, how do they work, what do they do, how do they stay safe, and so on. They were really charged to put their thinking and cognitive questions to the test when we had a real engineer come to visit. His tools and knowledge were

very motivating to ask questions and learn about something new or more in depth. As always, we incorporated learning or reviewing letters and numbers in a fun age appropriate way. One way was to do a craft involving spelling out their name to create their name train. We have also begun to explore the human body. So much to learn! Your children have really enjoyed being caretakers of one another as they transform into medical staff in our



hospital area of the room. They learned how much is under our skin that we cannot see. X-rays help us see what our eyes cannot. There are bones, nerves, organs, muscles, blood, a digestive system, etc.... You know what subject came up when we talked about food breaking down and turning into waste.

We made paper bag lungs so children could see how our lungs work. We brainstormed ways we keep our bodies healthy. We talked about how we are the same and how we can be different. We explored what are senses are. Trying to identify

the scents in cotton balls was a fun way to explore our sense of smell. They really enjoyed



trying to guess what was in our rubber gloves filled with different materials. We learned new songs about our bodies. We set up obstacle courses so children could explore what is easy for their bodies and what is a challenge. What parts of our bodies do we use when making certain motion or movements?

We will continue exposing your children to different topics throughout the year. We will follow their lead as well as insert and expose them to the unknown.

Who? Badgers

What? Learning

Where? Classroom, multi, outside, kitchen, greenhouse, home, community

When? Always

Why? Curiosity and growth

We hope to talk with you about how and what your children learn in our first session of parent conferences. Be on the lookout for signup sheets shortly. There will be two times two sign up.

On behalf of the Badger team

Terri

News from the Black Bears

Kristen Brown,
Lead Teacher

Anna Tasslnari

Cori Peterson

Welcome to Black Bears!

Our first month as a group has been full of fun and exciting new experiences. We have been learning new routines and adjusting to the transitions that come with a new classroom and new teachers! We are getting very good at making our own mats at rest time, using our picture cards to show where we are playing, and have already made so much progress writing our names at the morning sign in!

The Black Bears have many favorite spaces in the classroom. In the loft we have wooden blocks, magnatiles, and a cozy space to look at books.

The Bear Cave is also a calming space for one friend to relax, look at a book, or take some deep breaths if they're feeling upset. Dramatic play has become a very popular space in Black Bears as well. For the month of September this space was a house. It had a kitchen where friends made meals, and baby dolls and accessories to take care of the babies. Black Bears talked about what a family is to them and learned more about themselves. They are currently finishing up All About Me books to culminate these experiences. We are excited to move forward in learning about Air Transportation. This is an interest of many of the Black Bears. Dramatic play has become an airport, including our very own airplane! Black Bears are curious to know how these different vehicles are made, how they work, and who flies them. Through play-based projects we will learn the answers to these questions and more!



We have also been getting a lot of use out of both the big and natural playgrounds! On the natural playground we have been enjoying building with sticks, collecting treasure to use for art projects, playing running games, and searching for bugs. On the big playground we have spent a lot of time in the sandbox, on the climber, and swinging on the swings.



At the beginning of October D4C held our annual Fall Festival. The Black Bears were put into groups with children and teachers from other classrooms to take part in fun fall activities. The Black Bears did a fantastic job being role models for the younger children, showing them how to do the activities and making sure to follow all the rules to keep us safe during events like these! They jumped in leaf piles, painted with pinecones, dug up root vegetables, played pumpkin toss, tossed apples, and bowled with pumpkins!



We have already celebrated Camilla's Birthday! At the end of October, we will celebrate Hanna's birthday. In November we will celebrate Leila, Henry, and Connor's birthdays as well!



For the Black Bear Team,
Kristen

