



News from the DCCCC Office

November, 2014

Jeff Robbins, Director
Sunnie McPhetres, Assistant Director

Terry Chase, Administrative Assistant
Dawn Cote, Administrative Assistant

Staff

Chickadee One

Ray Garcia
Denise Ayers
Kristin Cole

Chickadee Too

Lori Higgins
Teresa Hahn

Owls

Debbie Burnham
Wendy Irwin
April Buchanan

Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague
Jenn Boudro
Anna Fuller

Otters

Susan Quimby Young
Joel King
Valerie Stefani

Badgers

Terri Hollis
Miranda Arruda
Melissa Horrigan

Black Bears

Amy McLellan
Barb Merchand
Kelly Bosma

Floating Assistant

Teachers

Liz Harrington
Moya Stevens
Terri Crane
Eileen Ruml



Snow Days

Whenever Hanover schools close or open late due to inclement weather, DCCCC will have a late opening time of 9:00 a.m. A late opening at DCCCC will be announced on:

- WMUR TV Channel 9 and
www.WMUR.com

- WCAX TV Channel 3 and
www.WCAX.com, (go to weather,
select school closings)

During school vacations, late openings will be decided by the Director in consultation with local authorities and will be announced in the same media as above.





From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

We just moved here from sunny, warm Florida. There's been snow here already and I am dreading the winter that isn't even here yet. What do you do around here for all the dark, cold, snowy months coming up?

Thanks,

Cold Comfort

Dear Cold,

Well, we all feel that way on some days, but here are a few ideas to get you through the darkest, dreariest days. It's not so hard to appreciate the days with fresh snow sparkling in the sunshine. They just beg for you to bundle up and come outside to make tracks in the new snow, or go for a walk, or Check out the ideas below. I've grouped them into two pieces of advice: I. Go outside II. Keep it interesting inside. And, as always, ask your child's teachers.

Happy Winter,

Big Jeff

I. Go outside. Even a few minutes of fresh air can diffuse pent up energy.

*Look for tracks. Follow them to see where they go. Make up a story about them. Learn about animals in winter from library books and the internet.

*Take turns laying down your own tracks and finding each other's hiding places.

*Make friends with your sled. Slide, pull, push, load it with toys. It will be your best buddy all winter.

*Push, roll or shovel snow into a fort or a house or a cave or a Secret Hiding Place. Bring out some pots and pans to play house.

*Pack down snow with your boots. Make roads or a house with several rooms.

*Play Fox and Chickens. Pack down snow in a circle like a wheel with spokes to make the tracks that the players have to stay on. One player is the fox and chases the chickens. The hub is the Hen House and the safety zone. When the fox catches a chicken, that child becomes the fox.

*Teach your child how to make snowballs and fire them at targets – toys lined up, an empty basket or a tree trunk.

*Fill the birdfeeder together.

- *Explore together. Everything looks different in the snow.
- *Make snow angels. Fill spray bottles with colored water and make clothes for your snow angel.
- *Collect sticks and make a real campfire. Right on the ground! Or in your (galvanized) garbage can lid – you can even buy those separately in the hardware store.
- *Hang a string of pin lights outside the kitchen window and make up stories about the little village in the tree with all those street lights. Move the lights to a new spot occasionally.
- *Ride a trike. If it spins out, it's an exercise bike. If it doesn't go anywhere, it's a place to take a break, or a space ship or the Pony Express.

II. Keep it interesting indoors. There are a bazillion rainy day ideas on the web. Dredge up your memories of the fun things you did when you were a kid.

- *Throw a sheet over the card table and make a secret hiding place.
- *Turn a box upside down for pretend stove.
- *Put three empty boxes in a line and make a train.
- *Fill a big box with pillows and stuffed animals.
- *Play with the real pots and pans and wooden spoons in your kitchen.
- *Save empty cans and boxes to play grocery store. Use the full ones, for that matter.
- *Teach your preschooler how to play the card games you remember.
- *Dig out the dominoes and the checkers, too. Invent your own rules.
- *Make fresh warm play dough.
- *Fill the tub with bubbles and have an extra-long bath. Right in the middle of a stormy day!
- *Read, read, read! Make regular jaunts to the library.
- *Read *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and bring some snow in to melt.
- *Make up your own stories. Tell about when you were a child.
- *Write down a story that your child tells and let him/her illustrate it.
- *Cut up old magazines. Work together to make a collage that tells a story.
- *Cook with your child. Make English muffin pizzas with lightly toasted English muffins, a dab of pizza sauce or spaghetti sauce, any kind of cheese you have and anything you can think of for toppings (leftover meat, cooked vegetables, corn flakes – who cares?!)
 - *Make your own “snow” in the blender and make slushies – add juice, yogurt, milk, or what have you. Invent a recipe or find one on line.

*Put out a bird feeder and see what visits. The two best wild bird foods are black oil sunflower seeds and beef suet. Put the suet in an onion bag or buy a wire box for it.

*Keep a log of visitors to the bird feeder. Make a graph from your visitor log.



Dear Big Jeff,

We will be traveling a good deal in December and will be away for most of the month. Will we be charged the usual tuition rate?

Signed,

Traveler

Dear Travel,

Thanks for letting us know. It's particularly helpful to have accurate head counts in seasons when staff are seeking to take time off, so we can be sure to have the right number of teachers on deck.

The short answer is yes, you will be charged the same tuition. Our costs don't change, so unfortunately yours don't either. The exception is in the summer if you are gone for four or more consecutive weeks. In that case you may keep your space for a 50% holding fee, as I am generally able to fill summer spots with new enrollees. Occasionally, if a family is away for a whole term or more, I can "sublet" the space to someone on the waiting list, but this is unusual as most families looking for child care don't want to give up their current arrangements for a temporary fix. Similarly, currently enrolled families are rarely candidates for filling a vacant spot and I'm pretty up to speed on who is looking for more days.

Thanks for checking. I've had a number of inquiries so this was a good opportunity to review the policy. When I checked to see if this information was in the financial agreement, I found it, but the page is so chockablock full with money details that it didn't stand out.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dcccc/docs/financial_agreement_form_7_14.pdf

Big Jeff

StoryTime

Here are a few pictures from the most recent StoryTime performance featuring Big Jeff the Narrator, James Burger the Professor of Percussion, and Sunnie the projectionist. This performance saw special guest appearances from Susan (the Little Red Hen), Teresa (the Woodchuck), Miranda (the Badger), and Amy (the Black Bear). During events of this sort, the children are learning to be excited about reading and storytelling, being polite audience members, and attending for a length of time. Isn't it great when you can learn so many things and have fun at the same time? There will be another StoryTime performance December 12 at 4:00. This performance will follow a talent show format! If you have any ideas for guest performers that the children would enjoy and that would enrich their learning, let us know!





Greetings from Sunnie:

The upcoming season of Thanksgiving and celebrations of light and giving is a great time to help children gain experience in reaching out to others around them. The development of empathy is a slow process that is learned through seeing examples of caring behaviors, receiving help with identifying and interpreting emotions, chances to practice, and adults who support and appreciate the attempts of children to help others.

While developing empathy is something that happens all year long, this time of year presents so many opportunities. I'll share a few of those opportunities with you here. If you wish to read an article about the development of empathy, you can find a good one at

http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=242

Helping Santa Coat Drive: Donations of new and used winter coats can be made through Dec. 11 at the following locations: Hills 5 & 10 and Odell Insurance Agency, Bradford, Vt.; Chapman's Country Store, Fairlee; Stella's Italian Kitchen, Lyme; Piermont Village School; Oodles, White River Junction; Dartmouth Bookstore, Hanover. Donors can enter a raffle to win a copy of *Helping Santa*. 603-272-9221.

Badger Drive for the Haven

The Badger class is collecting non-perishable items to donate to the Upper Valley Haven.

There are collection boxes located at the Main Entrance and at the West Entrance.

Coming Soon! DCCCC will be sponsoring a couple of families through the Listen Holiday Helpers program.

Announcements/Local Events

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

-November 27 and 28 –
Thanksgiving

-December 24-January 2 – Winter
Break

First Day Back will be January 5.

Events happening Saturday, November 22

Rick Goldin and the Music and Puppets in Hanover: 11 a.m., Alumni Hall at Hopkins Center for the Arts, 2 E. Wheelock St. An interactive program with singing and dancing. For ages 3 and up. Free. 603-646-2422

Rick Goldin and the Music and Puppets in Claremont: 3 p.m., CSB Community Center, 152 South St. An interactive program with singing and dancing. For ages 3 and up. Free. 603-646-2422.

Autumn Wagon Ride Weekend in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Narrated horse-drawn wagon rides ^ \$4 to \$14, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Family Music in South Pomfret: 10-11 a.m., ArtisTree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road. Join ArtisTree musicians to play with instruments and sing songs ^ \$10, per parent/child pair, \$5 for additional people. 802-457-3500.

"Exploration Station" in South Royalton: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Royalton Memorial Library, 23 Alexander Place. A hands-on science program for children. Free. 802-763-7094.

Community Arts Open Studio in Lebanon: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. Open studio for all ages ^ \$5 per child. Continues weekly. 603-448-3117.

Events happening Sunday, November 23

Autumn Wagon Ride Weekend in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Narrated horse-drawn wagon rides ^ \$4 to \$14, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Machine Madness in Norwich: 1-3 p.m., Montshire Museum, 1 Montshire Road. Annual family engineering event links together multiple homemade machines. Free for families with registered machines ^ \$11 or \$14, under 2 free. 802-649-2200.

Events happening Friday, November 28

Thanksgiving on the Farm in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Activities and exhibits explore the history of Thanksgiving ^ \$4-\$14, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Events happening Saturday, November 29

Tomie dePaola in Norwich: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main St. Conversation and book signing with the author of *Strega Nona Does It Again!* Free. 802-649-1114.

Thanksgiving on the Farm in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Activities and exhibits explore the history of Thanksgiving ^ \$4-\$14, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Christmas Illuminations Opening in Enfield: 2:30 p.m., La Salette Shrine, 410 Route 4A. Advent wreath making, 2:30 p.m. Plainfield Chimers, 4:15 p.m. Manger blessing, lights turn on, 5 p.m. Free. 603-632-7087.

"Exploration Station" in South Royalton: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Royalton Memorial Library, 23 Alexander Place. A hands-on science program for children. Free. 802-763-7094.

Community Arts Open Studio in Lebanon: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., AVA Gallery and Art Center, 11 Bank St. Open studio for all ages ^ \$5 per child. Continues weekly. 603-448-3117.

Events happening Sunday, November 30

Thanksgiving on the Farm in Woodstock: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road. Activities and exhibits explore the history of Thanksgiving ^ \$4-\$14, under 2 free. 802-457-2355.

Christmas Illuminations Children's Day in Enfield: 3-5 p.m., La Salette Shrine, 410 Route 4A. Film, craft and Santa visit. Free. 603-632-7087.

December 13 and 14

The Hartford VT Polar Express

<http://www.hartfordvtpolarexpress.com/> for details and tickets.

