



News From the DCCCC Office

March, 2017

Jeff Robbins, Director
Sunnie McPhetres, Assistant Director

Dawn Cote, Administrative Assistant
Karen Small, Administrative Assistant
Janene Robie, Administrative Assistant

WinterFest 2017

Many thanks to Jenn Boudro (Hedge Hog) for organizing yet another amazing all-center event! There were 5 fun activities: Jennifer Sprague (Hedge Hog) led freeze dancing in the little multi, Liz Harrington (Black Bear) created an obstacle course in the big multi, Susan Quimby Young (Otter) and Big Jeff led a “snowball” toss in the Otter Room, Courtney Temple (Badger) helped children find objects hidden in ice in the Badger Room, and Barb Merchand (Black Bear) led a cotton ball toss activity in the Black Bear Room. The children were divided into five different groups each consisting of some Hedge Hogs, Otters, Badgers, and Black Bears. Led by DCCCC staff members, each group made their way through the rotation of activities. Owls and Chickadees participated in the activities with their own teachers as their interest allowed. A great time was had by everyone!

Staff

Chickadee One

Ali Wachunas
Denise Ayers
Deserai Stone

Chickadee Too

Teresa Hahn
Lori Higgins
Moya Stevens

Owls

Debbie Burnham
Wendy Irwin
April Buchanan

Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague
Jenn Boudro
Kimberly Smith

Otters

Susan Quimby Young

Katie Robinson

Badgers

Terri Hollis
Miranda Arruda
Courtney Temple

Black Bears

Amy McLellan
Barb Merchand
Liz Harrington

Floating Assistant Teachers

Judy Labrie
Stephanie Cummings
Angelica Morrison
Kristin Cole
Terri Crane
Jenn Murphy







From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

We are beginning to wonder which classrooms our kids will be in this fall. Can you explain how that works?

Thanks,

Getting Bigger All the Time



Dear Big,

Good question! I spend a huge amount of time thinking that through between now and our first day of school which will be Wednesday, August 30, by the way.

You were smart to ask me, as the teachers won't know until I do, and that won't be until summer. If the path is clear sooner, I will certainly let you know. I have to roll with the changes over the summer as space is only created by departures and I will only learn about those when families know. Sometimes that's over the summer. The decision is always made in plenty of time to help children prepare for the transition, a task best left until closer to the change anyway.

Enrollment patterns fluctuate from year to year depending on the age of enrolled children and the age of children on the waiting list. Demographic dips and spikes on the waiting list are not uncommon and indicate where I need room for new enrollees. Children are grouped by chronological age, but age ranges in each classroom are not fixed and may overlap. Here's the big picture, in a typical enrollment year.

Chickadees: Infants and Younger Ones

Owls: Ones

Hedgehogs: Younger Twos

Otters: Twos and Younger Threes

Badgers: Threes and Younger Fours

Black Bears: Fours

Most children, except the younger Chickadees, will move to a new classroom. There are more age groups than years before Kindergarten, so children will skip one or two rooms during their tenure at DCCCC. This may happen at any point between Chickadees and Black Bears. For example, there are usually more Chickadees to move than there are Owl spaces, so the older Chickadees are likely to become Hedgehogs. Teachers know that their age ranges are different from year to year and adjust their programs accordingly. Children always move with some others from their current group. This is true at DCCCC right up to Kindergarten entry at which children must be 5 by September 30th in most school districts.

I'm really happy to answer questions, although I will have more specific information as spring progresses.

Signed

Big Jeff



Sunnie's Curriculum Highlight



How often have you walked into your child's classroom and seen playdough waiting on the table? You may look at the dough and think, "That's nice. Playdough again. I guess it keeps the kids busy." There really is more to playdough than meets the eye.



While attending the Badger Snack and Play recently, I was reminded of the power of playdough. As part of the event, one table had freshly made playdough with an assortment of tools. I sat down at the table and started playing with the kids who were there. I made a cube out of playdough and put it in a tortilla press. The children and I guessed as to what it would look like after being *squished*. We looked at the shape of the cube and decided that the end result would be a flat square. We were quite astonished when we opened the press to find a flat circle! We tried different shapes to start out with: a sphere, a *fat snake*, a *fat S*, a pyramid... the end result was always a flat circle or oval. It wasn't until we tried a *skinny S* that we got a different result. This activity went on for quite some time and all the while we were exploring geometry, science, language, and social skills.

Playdough is something that can be found throughout the building, even in the Chickadee classrooms. The learning that happens is different with each age group. Playdough is one of those amazing materials that grows with children and is always developmentally appropriate. Older infants are learning that they can manipulate their environment and exploring texture smell and even sometimes taste. Toddlers are exploring the social aspects of playdough: can I have all the playdough? What happens if I throw the playdough on the floor? Are there rules with playdough? Preschoolers are opening doors to many areas of development as described earlier. I have to say that, even as an adult, I find playdough to be very calming!



Who knew that playdough could teach so much? The teachers who planned the activity!

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has provided a great article (including recipes) about playdough specifically for families. You can read the article at <https://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/playdough-power>.

Closure Dates

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

- Monday, April 10: Teacher In-Service Day**
- Monday, May 29, Memorial Day**
- Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day**
- Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 28 and 29, In-Service and Transition**
- Monday, September 4, Labor Day**
- Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, Thanksgiving Break**

Don't miss this **FREE** HealthyChildren.org parent webinar!



Vacation Dream or Disaster?

10 Tips for a Great Family Escape

With host *Dr. Jennifer Shu*

Thursday, March 16, 2017 • 12:30–1:15 pm Eastern Time

Register Now!



Whether you're traveling with a baby, toddler or young school-ager, your dream vacation could turn into a disaster if you aren't prepared. Join Dr. Jennifer Shu, medical editor of **HealthyChildren.org** and co-author of *Heading Home With Your Newborn: From Birth to Reality*, as she shares 10 tips for ensuring a safe and healthy escape for you and your family.

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We believe that play is a key enabler in raising well-developed children – as important to a child as food, water, sleep and parental love.

- Bright Day Play

Fun Facts:

Infant educational television does not promote intellectual development, because infants respond to things that respond to them. Even the most advanced DVD does not respond to the specific cues of an infant. Playing with a baby is far more valuable than even the most expensive system of videos.

let's better understand play!

let's value and promote play!

let's just get out there and play!

SCIENCE DAILY

[Sheltered Out of Fear](#)



ALL NEW STUDY!!! An amazingly interesting article focusing on parents who are too worried about the safety of their neighborhoods to let their children play outside, **ever**. What can be done, and what are the long term consequences of a childhood spent indoors?!?

[read more here](#)

TONIECHRISTINE

[D.I.Y Generation](#)



Here is a link to an awesome set of instructions on how you and your kids or students can build a **Tee-Pee** for your living room, bedroom, playroom, classroom, garage, or even outside, without the use of a sewing machine or any 'hard to get' parts. Be sure to do this with an adult, be safe, and have fun building, learning and playing!

[Check it Out](#)

MOM JUNCTION

[Be Cool About Road Safety, 13 Ways](#)



Here is an awesome and super necessary article on how to help your children and students gain awareness on the dangers of the road, and the lesson they can learn to keep them safe, all the time!

[read more here](#)

BrightDayPlay.Org | Cold Canyon Road, Monte Nido, CA 91302